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Security Council

Fifty-fifth Year

Provisional

4096th Meeting

Monday, 31 January 2000, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Holbrooke	(United States of America)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Listre
	Bangladesh	Mr. Ahmed
	Canada	Mr. Duval
	China	Mr. Qin Huasun
	France	Mr. Dejammet
	Jamaica	Miss Durrant
	Malaysia	Mr. Hasmy
	Mali	Mr. Ouane
	Namibia	Mr. Gurirab
	Netherlands	Mr. Hamer
	Russian Federation	Mr. Gatilov
	Tunisia	Mr. Ben Mustapha
	Ukraine	Mr. Yel'chenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Jeremy Greenstock

Agenda

The situation in Africa

00-26888 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Africa

Invitation to His Excellency Mr. Frederick J. T. Chiluba, President of the Republic of Zambia

The President: It is my honour and privilege to invite the Deputy Secretary-General, the Chief of Protocol and the Ambassador of Zambia to escort His Excellency Mr. Frederick J. T. Chiluba, President of the Republic of Zambia, to a seat at the Council table.

Mr. Frederick J. T. Chiluba, President of the Republic of Zambia, was escorted to a seat at the Council table.

The President: Mr. President, welcome back. We are honoured by your presence.

I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Algeria and South Africa, in which they request to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

On behalf of the Council, I welcome the Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa, Ms. Nkosazana C. Dlamini-Zuma, and the representative of Algeria, representing the Organization of African Unity.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Dlamini-Zuma (South Africa) and Mr. Baali (Algeria) took seats at the Council table.

Welcome to Minister

The President: I am pleased to acknowledge that at this meeting of the Security Council, Namibia will be represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs, and President of the General Assembly, Mr. Theo-Ben Gurirab.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I now call on the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ms. Louise Fréchette.

The Deputy Secretary-General: Let me begin by congratulating you, Mr. President, and your country, once again, for the truly historic start you have given to the Council's activity in the new millennium. Seldom, if ever, can this Chamber have been graced in the space of one month by so many heads of State or Government and by such distinguished representatives of the host country.

You have brought both the executive and the legislative branches of your Government here at a very high level. I believe it may be true to say that as a result, the United Nations and the United States now understand each other better than they have for many years. It may not be too much to hope that this will mark the beginning of a new era of positive engagement by the United States in all aspects of this Organization's work.

It is particularly gratifying that you have used this opportunity to focus attention on the challenges that face us in Africa. No part of the world is in greater need of our help, and none has greater potential to reward our efforts if we apply them in a wise and timely manner.

Sub-Saharan Africa, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit, is likely to be the world's fastest-growing region this year in economic terms. And which country is leading this impressive spurt of growth? Mozambique, a country which only a few years ago was in the grip of a civil war apparently as intractable as any of those still raging or smouldering on the continent.

If there is one country in the world where the efforts of the United Nations in peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace-building have made an incontrovertible difference, I suggest that Mozambique would be that country. So let no Afro-pessimist say, therefore, that you in the United States, or we in the Secretariat, or any of the members of this Council are wasting our time in trying to help Africans solve their problems. On the contrary, I am convinced that, if only we can sustain the momentum, the Council's efforts to mobilize the international community,

as well as the continent itself, will make a tangible difference to peace, stability and prosperity in Africa.

I am glad to see that on Friday, European Union ministers, in their turn, began a historic debate on a new and strategic relationship with Africa, focused on reducing poverty and conflict.

In the course of this "month of Africa", we have seen real and encouraging signs of the understanding, interest, determination and commitment which all sides need to demonstrate if we are to address the root causes of conflict and bring an end to the suffering of so many Africans. We have benefited from the wisdom and sustained attention of several outstanding African leaders, whose interest in solving the continent's problems clearly goes well beyond the immediate national interests of any one African country. Let me salute, in particular, the contributions made by the African leaders who have stayed with us for this final meeting. I salute President Chiluba of Zambia, as well as the President of the General Assembly, Mr. Theo-Ben Gurirab. I am also very happy to salute the presence of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa, Ms. Dlamini-Zuma.

As the Council knows, the Secretary-General of the United Nations has also followed its proceedings with intense interest. A long-standing conflict in another part of the world, Cyprus, requires his presence in Geneva today. But I assure members he is very much with us in spirit, and I shall give him a full account of the Council's deliberations when he returns to New York tomorrow.

By devoting its very first meeting of the new millennium to the question of AIDS, the Council recognized the epidemic as a security threat for Africa, both as a direct killer of millions of Africans and as an agent of social, economic and political instability. Members of the Council showed a clear understanding that it would make no sense for the international community to try to address peace and security issues on the continent without bringing HIV/AIDS into the picture.

Many important proposals were made during the debate and must be followed up energetically. All in all, a new impetus has been given to the fight against this most cruel of diseases and to the alliance against AIDS in Africa which is currently being built under the leadership of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). I particularly welcome the pledges of material support for this struggle given by Vice-President Gore and other representatives of donor Governments.

The discussions on Burundi also yielded clear signs of a stronger intent to overcome the current stalemate. President Mandela's wisdom and faith once again proved invaluable. In thank him most sincerely for the trust he showed in the Council by coming to take part in its debate, and for the unforgettable statements he delivered both here and in Arusha.

Similarly, when it came to the even more complex problems of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, no fewer than seven African heads of State joined your own Secretary of State, Mr. President, in giving us new hope by their presence and by their words. They reaffirmed their commitment to finding a peaceful solution to what Mrs. Albright has aptly named "Africa's first world war".

The Lusaka Agreement — already in itself an important example of Africa's renewed determination to tackle its own problems — thereby received a major boost. All the States which had signed it solemnly reaffirmed their commitment to it. And the fact that a statesman of such wisdom and moral authority as Sir Ketumile Masire has agreed to act as facilitator in the next phase of negotiations is certainly a source of hope.

The Council has since been working hard to finalize a draft resolution which would enable us at last to deploy the promised 500 military observers and support troops. If all goes well, this should lead on to a major new peacekeeping and peace-building effort, which will demonstrate beyond any doubt the seriousness of the international community's commitment to resolving conflict in Africa.

In Sierra Leone, the peace process is further advanced but still very fragile. Nowhere in Africa, at this moment, has the United Nations taken on a greater responsibility. I am glad that discussions during this month have moved us closer to having the mandate and the resources we need to carry out that responsibility, and I hope that next week the Council will be able to adopt a resolution to that effect, as planned.

In Angola, the Council's discussions have at least helped bring the protracted conflict there back into clearer international focus, and I am grateful for that. The important work of the Council's Committee on sanctions, led by Ambassador Fowler, must now be carried forward in order to reinforce the push for peace.

No less important was the debate the Council held on the harrowing problem of refugees and displaced persons in Africa. These unhappy people merit our attention every bit as much as their counterparts in other parts of the world. I hope that the spotlight that the Council has focused on them will result in more generous funding of the humanitarian appeals which the United Nations has launched on their behalf.

And I must thank the Council also for drawing attention to the discrimination which often affects the internally displaced, an issue which has long preoccupied the humanitarian branches of the United Nations family but which until now has seldom caught the eye of political leaders or the international media.

If I were to sum up the achievement of this month in a single phrase, I should say that the Council has spectacularly reaffirmed its long-standing engagement with Africa, and in doing so has shown a greater sense of urgency than ever before.

But we all know that the real measure of our achievements, if such they are, will not to be found in this room. It can only be found on the African continent itself, in the peace we are able to restore or maintain, and the relief we are able to bring to the sufferings of so many innocent people. So the real issue is: where do we go from here?

Council presidencies come and go as the months pass, but Africa, with its deep wounds and its heroic efforts, remains with us month after month. Our commitment to heal those wounds and to support those efforts is worth nothing unless it matches deeds to words; unless it is strong and, above all, sustained.

And African leaders on their side must not forget something they have heard over and over in this Chamber during the past few weeks: that no amount of international support can help them unless they themselves show statesmanship and real political will.

No one imagines that their task is easy. The cause of peace and development requires many painful sacrifices and courageous compromises. But the pain and the risk will surely be worthwhile if they give the peoples of Africa a real chance to build a peaceful and prosperous future for themselves and for their children.

For my part, on behalf of the Secretariat, I pledge that we will do everything possible to sustain the momentum that this "month of Africa" has generated, and to make sure that it is effectively harnessed within the United Nations system. I am confident that members of the Council will do the same.

The President: I am very touched by the Deputy Secretary-General's remarks; she captured the essence of what the presidency tried to do this month. I would only stress that the extraordinary unanimous support of all the other 14 members of the Security Council was critical to this, in its every aspect. And I underline the point that the test is in one word: follow-up.

Let me bring to the Council's attention that we are graced again this morning by the presence of President Clinton's Special Envoy for the Great Lakes area, Ambassador Howard Wolpe, who is well known to most members as the most senior person in the United States Government who has spent his career in Africa.

I am also very pleased to acknowledge that we have been joined by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Namibia and President of the General Assembly — and, as it also turns out, a part-time North Carolina constituent — His Excellency Mr. Theo-Ben Gurirab. We welcome him and look forward to hearing his statement.

I call next on His Excellency Mr. Frederick J.T. Chiluba, President of the Republic of Zambia. I thank him for remaining in New York over the weekend to give us a farewell charge on behalf of himself and of his great country, and in his extraordinarily important capacity as the leader of the Lusaka process. I welcome him to the Security Council for the second time in a week.

President Chiluba: Today marks the end of an unprecedented and highly significant month for Africa in the Security Council, during which a number of very important issues affecting the continent have been addressed. As Africans, we wish to thank you, Ambassador Holbrooke, not only for taking the initiative to convene these special meetings during your country's presidency, but also for the trouble you personally took to visit a number of African countries to consult on the matter. Your tour of Africa demonstrated the importance that the Clinton Administration continues to attach to African issues. We wish, in that connection, to express our appreciation for this gesture of friendship and for the extension of a hand of partnership to Africa.

I also wish to commend the Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, for his unrelenting efforts and his total

commitment to the search for peaceful and lasting solutions to problems affecting all of us. I further wish to acknowledge the support which the members of the Security Council and other Members of the United Nations have demonstrated regarding the African issues addressed during the month.

During the past month, the Security Council has discussed the questions of the scourge of HIV/AIDS, the plight of refugees and internally displaced persons, the Burundi peace process, the war in Angola and the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as they impact on peace and security in Africa. All of these situations have had a negative impact on the populations of Africa and have, in varying degrees, presented critical challenges to peace and stability on the continent. These challenges call for answers today and not tomorrow.

The AIDS pandemic today threatens to wipe out the most productive sectors of our populations. AIDS is already having catastrophic consequences for the peace and development of our countries, which, as the Secretary-General observed when he addressed the Security Council during its debate on the impact of AIDS on peace and security in Africa, are no less destructive than those of warfare itself.

African countries have adopted serious measures to address the pandemic. This can be seen from the results of the Eleventh International Conference on AIDS in Africa, held in Lusaka in September last year. AIDS is, however, a catastrophe that transcends borders. It is too big for Africa to confront on her own. We therefore welcome and deeply appreciate the interest that the United States Administration and the United Nations have manifested in our plight by tabling the AIDS question during the "month of Africa". It is our hope that this interest will soon translate into practical measures.

The problem of refugees and internally displaced persons in Africa has not only been a humanitarian disaster in itself; it also continues to pose a real threat to peace and stability in the countries where conflict has occurred. Here again, as in the case of the AIDS pandemic, Africa welcomes the support of the international community in the search for comprehensive solutions, solutions that get at the root cause of conflict, which leads to the problem of internally displaced persons and refugees.

The situation in Burundi, as this body heard in the discussions on the matter, calls for the concerted efforts of the United Nations and the international community at large. The only hope at the moment for finding a durable and peaceful settlement to the Burundi conflict lies in the ongoing Arusha peace process under the facilitation of Mr. Nelson Mandela.

With regard to the situation in Angola, Mr. Jonas Savimbi today bears the primary responsibility for the continuation of the war in that country. Mr. Savimbi has abrogated his responsibilities under the Lusaka Protocol, to which his party voluntarily committed itself in November 1994. He has thus prolonged the war and caused a tragic humanitarian catastrophe in Angola and in neighbouring countries. As a neighbour of Angola, Zambia can bear witness to this daily humanitarian tragedy. The tragedy of Angola, however, also extends to an international cartel of illegal suppliers of arms and ammunition, who have perpetuated the war in that country. The international community should speak with one voice and assume the responsibility for exposing these arms traffickers who are sustaining conflicts all over Africa.

The peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has been the main focus of my visit to New York. The reaffirmation of commitment by the parties to the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement and their pledge to guarantee the safety, security and freedom of movement of United Nations and associated personnel are some of the major achievements of this special session. My appeal to the Council is that it meet the parties half way by expediting the process of deployment of the recommended 5,537 military personnel under the second phase and of a peacekeeping mission under the third phase, in order to build on the momentum already gathered by this very important session.

The importance of the programme of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) to the successful implementation of the Agreement cannot be overemphasized. I therefore welcome the initiative of the World Bank and the United Nations Children's Fund to finance the first phase of the DDR programme initiated by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 1997. It is my hope that the subsequent meetings of the Political Committee of the Joint Military Commission will work out and finalize plans for the second phase of the DDR programme outlined under chapter 9 of the Lusaka Agreement.

However, I wish to emphasize also that the deployment of a peacekeeping mission is not an end in itself but is intended to facilitate the charting of a

long-term, new internal political dispensation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo — for which, we all know, President Sir Ketumile Masire has been appointed. It is to this end that the international community should commit sufficient resources to the inter-Congolese political negotiations. It is my very sincere belief that if the internal process does not succeed, we risk returning to square one. I therefore wish to take this opportunity to thank those countries that have already pledged contributions towards these negotiations.

Let me hasten to point out here that the issues arising from the conflict situations that we have been addressing this month are not unique to those countries, no they are not; nor are they indeed unique to the regions concerned. Rather, these problems are common to Africa. They also hinge on adherence to obligations under international conventions and norms.

When we convened last week to discuss the deadlock in the implementation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement, the main issue that preoccupied all our minds was the reaffirmation of the commitment of the parties to the Agreement that they all voluntarily signed. One of the most important messages of the special session on the Democratic Republic of the Congo is of the need to adhere to the international law principle of *pacta sunt servanda*, meaning that agreements and stipulations of the parties to a contract or treaty must be observed or respected.

More lessons have to be drawn from the "month of Africa", especially in relation to the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. These lessons should, however, also be seen in the context of the hope that they will bring for Africa in the twenty-first century.

One of the rallying calls in last week's debate had to do with the question of adequately addressing the external dimension of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and of the need, therefore, to convene an international conference on peace and security in the Great Lakes region. It has been our conviction in the region that the problem in the Democratic Republic of the Congo extends far beyond the territorial boundaries of the country. Thus permanent and comprehensive solution requires the consideration of the root causes of the problem. This would entail addressing issues both of peace and security and those of democracy and the development of the countries in the region, as peace is more than just the absence of war.

With regard to the internal dimension, I wish to appeal to the international community to show greater understanding as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, or indeed any other African country, embarks on its democratization programme. Africa in general has had a vision of promoting principles of democracy and of building democratic institutions.

Admittedly, there have been some lapses on the continent. Africa's resolve over the past 10 years, however, has been such that even when such lapses have occurred we have picked up the pieces and moved forward. During the thirty-fifth ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), which was held in Algeria, we made a further decision to suspend from participation in future OAU meetings any country whose Government assumed power through unconstitutional means, with effect from last year. Africa today believes that it is only through an inclusive political system that citizens can contribute towards shaping the destiny of their countries.

With specific reference to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, it is our hope that once peace is consolidated in that country, and democracy is allowed to flourish and political and economic stability prevail, the international community will be able to provide direct investment to that country. It is equally our hope that international financial institutions and Governments alike will be able to consider cancelling the debt of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to allow the country to start its economic reconstruction on a fresh note.

I wish to reiterate that Africa has the resolve, determination and vision to work for peace and development in the twenty-first century. However, the vision can be realized only if Africa works in partnership with its global allies, as Africa is not an island. Yesterday Africa needed — and still needs — the assistance and cooperation of the international community. She needs them today, and she needs them in the future.

The President: We thank President Chiluba from the bottom of our hearts for staying and for giving us this important mission. I am sure my colleagues will join me in saying that we will pay close attention to this question and will welcome him back to the Security Council whenever he wishes to ask us to help once again accelerate and reinforce the Lusaka peace process. We

listened with great attention to his wisdom and to his very kind words about us.

Mr. Gurirab (Namibia): First of all, I should like to welcome Mr. Howard Wolpe, a personal friend of long standing who continues to provide service to Africa beyond his days in Washington as Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Africa.

Before I proceed with my statement, let me say that a Kenya Airways Airbus flight with 168 passengers and 10 crew members crashed into the sea en route from Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, to Nairobi, via Lagos, Nigeria. Without a passengers' manifest, we will not know for some time the nationalities of all the people who perished. We are shocked and saddened by this tragedy, and we express our sympathy and condolences to the Government and people of Kenya and to the other nations at this hour of grief and sorrow.

As we conclude this unprecedented "Month of Africa", dedicated to African issues and to the search for solutions to them, we can look back with appreciation on the immense efforts expended by the American presidency, at many levels, in managing the meetings and organizing various useful consultations that brought all the interested parties together. It was your baby, Mr. President, and we once again salute you for your brilliant leadership and commend your dutiful associates for a job well done.

We are heartened to see that President Chiluba chose to delay his departure in order to participate personally in this wrap-up Council meeting. President Chiluba is coordinating, with immense conviction, the peace process concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo and also, in particular, spearheading the speedy implementation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement. His important statement this morning has forcefully renewed the urgency of moving the process forward and removing all the obstacles, so that we can concentrate on the real problems of how to achieve progress, instead of wasting time and resources on needless political gamesmanship.

We are also happy to see here the Foreign Minister of South Africa and the representative of the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), President Bouteflika of Algeria. My sister, Ms. Zuma, celebrated her birthday during this "Month of Africa" in New York, under the frigid weather conditions, away from the tropical sunshine, as did my brother, Mr. Salim. And, believe it or not, yours truly did as well.

I know that they have been working hard during their stay in New York with a view to accelerating the implementation of the commitments collectively made here by the African regional leaders and the Security Council. The United Nations Secretary-General too has shared with the leaders his road map for the effective deployment of the United Nations peacekeeping force in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The presidential statement adopted last Wednesday and the draft resolution that the Council will consider must further strengthen the momentum as we proceed, bearing in mind the forthcoming summit of regional leaders in Lusaka, as a follow-up to the "Month of Africa".

The unprecedented meeting that you, Mr. President, convened on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo was attended by many African heads of State. For the first time, heads of State parties to a conflict addressed the Security Council. Indeed, these leaders once again reiterated their commitment to the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement, which has created a momentum that will encourage all of us to shoulder our collective responsibilities for the full and speedy implementation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement. Just as the leaders have renewed their commitment, we expect that the Security Council and the international community as a whole will also commit themselves to doing the same.

With this in mind, we repeat our appeal to the international community to provide the required material assistance and political support to the Joint Military Commission (JMC). To this end, we are strengthened in our expectation by the pledges made by Canada, France, the United States, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Japan and other friendly countries to the JMC and towards buttressing the inter-Congolese dialogue, under the able direction of Sir Ketumile Masire. We thank them all for this demonstrated generosity and call upon other friends and partners to emulate them.

The leaders have done their part: they signed the Ceasefire Agreement, continue to uphold it under difficult conditions and travelled all the way to New York to reaffirm their commitment to go forward. The Security Council must not delay the authorization of the speedy deployment of military observers, to be followed by a full-fledged peacekeeping operation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Here we would like to emphasize the importance of providing that peacekeeping force, under a Chapter VII mandate, with logistical and

financial resources to deal with the situation on the ground and hasten the achievement of peace, stability and reconciliation in the country.

We will cooperate with your delegation, Mr. President, and the other delegations in the Security Council to ensure that unnecessary delay in authorizing the deployment of the military observers and peacekeepers is averted. We believe that Argentina will start its presidency tomorrow on a firm foundation, and we admire Ambassador Listre's personal attributes and devotion to the principles and ideals of the United Nations Charter.

We all agree that the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has internal and external dimensions. Also, the economic and social problems confronting the Congolese people today are a result of over 30 years of the cruellest dictatorship, abuse and neglect. Therefore, the international community should assist that people in their efforts to build and consolidate a new and inclusive dispensation. While the Congolese people are working towards democratizing their country, it is important that other countries in the region should democratize likewise.

In terms of the reconstruction of the Great Lakes region and Central Africa, the proposal made by the delegation of France for an international conference on peace, stability, democracy and development in the region, to be organized by the United Nations and the OAU is long overdue, as it is critical for the security, development and prosperity of all. Namibia supports this proposal fully. I take note of the same position expressed by President Chiluba.

In African culture, a homeless person is considered a rootless, disoriented and alienated orphan. Homelessness is a personal disgrace and a shame to one's lineage, accompanied by huge mental trauma. It is therefore no surprise that Africans, as well as, happily, many other delegations and indeed, no less a person than the indefatigable United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Mrs. Ogata — have called for urgent and increased assistance to mitigate the inhuman and shameful situation in which many millions of African refugees and internally displaced persons find themselves. Generous and sustained assistance in response to the United Nations Inter-Agency Consolidated Appeals to help these unfortunate fellow human beings is urgently required. These women, men and children are helplessly trapped in armed conflict and civil wars. They yearn for world solidarity.

Once again, it is imperative that the unceasing provision of arms to rebel movements and other armed groups in Africa end if the continent is to enjoy lasting peace, security and stability. Arms-producing countries, most of which are non-African, can assist us in this regard by ensuring that this dangerous phenomenon is prevented.

On another troubled front, we have all heard the statistics on HIV/AIDS in Africa and have been told about its devastating effects. We call again on our trustworthy friends and partners to work with us in containing and eventually defeating this global pandemic, which is worst in Africa.

Former President Mandela, with great passion, expressed his vision for the Arusha peace process. These are, in part, his words:

> "The misery of the Burundian people affects us all and diminishes the humanity of all of us. The international community turns its attention and its energy to this matter not as a favour to that country or continent. The failure of those responsible to provide conditions of security and social development to the people of Burundi does not represent some errant occurrence on the periphery. It hits at the heart of our common human obligation... These are amongst the most sensitive issues in the negotiations and will have to be faced squarely if the process is to lead to a durable peace in Burundi." *(S/PV.4091, pp. 4-5)*

Moreover, at the same meeting of the Council on Burundi, it was recognized that it is important to provide the Arusha peace process with abundant support. We are hopeful that such support — political, logistical and financial — will continue to be extended to President Mandela to carry out his mandate successfully in the shortest possible time. This, we know, is the burning wish of the majority of the suffering people of Burundi. We must avoid at all costs another human disaster in that country.

Regarding the situation in Angola, the concerns expressed in the Council were multiple, but the humanitarian situation was at the top of the list of priorities, with many thousands of refugees crossing into the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Zambia and Namibia in dire need of food, shelter and health care. We expect that with the extension of State

administration throughout the territory, normalcy and safety will soon be re-established. In this context, the donor community should generously continue contributing both financially and in kind to the United Nations Inter-Agency Appeal for Angola to assist the relevant agencies to do their life-saving work effectively.

We welcome the reiteration by the Angolan Government of its commitment to the Lusaka Protocol. This makes the task of the United Nations, the OAU and the Southern African Development Community easier. It is also noteworthy that the Government has ratified the Status-of-Mission Agreement. This will, no doubt, be followed by practical arrangements for the Mission to start its work in earnest. We once again demand that UNITA comply with its obligations under the Lusaka Protocol and Security Council resolutions without any conditions.

In this context, we strongly applaud Ambassador Robert Fowler for his imaginative and active Chairmanship and for the excellent work being done by the sanctions Committee on Angola. We await the consideration by the Council of the full report and the recommendations on the violations of its sanctions imposed against UNITA. Member States and all others must comply with their obligations in stopping assistance to and collaboration with UNITA.

Let me conclude by stating that while human beings are habitually linked to the past, our salvation is essentially a function of how we prepare ourselves for the future. Thus, as we move further into the twenty-first century, rather than remaining for ever prisoners of the past, we must, without forgetting the past, look to the future, armed with determination and confidence; and as we leave this memorable encounter in New York, we must act together for the good of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Africa, the United Nations and the world at large. That will, indeed, be the most precious gift that we can give to the children of the world. So let us begin that difficult but inevitably rewarding journey now.

The President: I thank the Foreign Minister of Namibia for his extremely important statement and for his kind words addressed to Ambassador Wolpe, to me and to the American presidency. I would simply like to make one comment: as President of the General Assembly, he will officially be receiving a letter from some of the members of the Security Council proposing that the General Assembly, too, consider the question of AIDS. That letter will reach him later in the day; I want everyone here to know that it is on its way. The lead has been taken by three members of the Security Council, who will probably mention the matter later.

It is now my great privilege to call on the Foreign Minister of South Africa, Ms. Dlamini-Zuma. I again welcome her to the Security Council; we await her statement with great interest.

Ms. Dlamini-Zuma (South Africa): First, my Government would like to thank the delegation of the United States for devoting the month of its presidency of the Security Council to Africa. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for all the efforts he has devoted to solving African problems. We have, indeed, come to the end of an extraordinary month in the Security Council during which various difficult issues relating to Africa have been discussed, some for the very first time. We may not have found lasting solutions to these issues, but we have, indeed, made some progress towards achieving lasting peace. It has been Africa's privilege for several of our Presidents to appear before this body.

Quite understandably, much of the attention has been focused on the few conflict areas in Africa, which threaten the lives, liberty and homes of so many of our people. The cost in blood and lost opportunities of the conflicts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Angola, Burundi and Sierra Leone is already far too high. President Chiluba has eloquently given details about the various conflicts and what needs to be done, and my brother, Mr. Gurirab, has done the same. Of course, in my culture, I would not have spoken after President Chiluba and my brother; in my culture, youths do not speak after their elders. But I have to obey the protocol of the Security Council.

The President: I note that the President of the General Assembly is signalling his dissent on this point.

Ms. Dlamini-Zuma (South Africa): It does not refer to age; it refers to station in life.

The Lusaka Agreement tries to offer a comprehensive solution to a very complex conflict. It is therefore important to note that the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is multidimensional, and if one aspect of the Lusaka Agreement is left out in its implementation, we may never see lasting peace in that country. We therefore look forward to the speedy adoption of a draft resolution that will move forward the implementation of the Lusaka Agreement.

I believe we have made steady progress on some of these issues, and we look to the concerned parties, as well as to the Security Council, to help bring about lasting peace in these troubled areas. Even in these difficult times, I would like to say that it is incumbent upon all of us to let our actions be guided by the realization that there is an Africa quite distinct from the bloody killing fields, and that we should not look at Africa as only a place of conflict. There is an Africa where the seeds of democracy and tolerance have fallen on fertile ground and are bearing fruit that is healthy and sweet.

The majority of Africans now live under systems of democratic governance and are free to elect those to whom they entrust the responsibility of leadership and to determine their own future. A large number of African countries have recently conducted successful democratic elections, and others are preparing to do so, thereby providing democracy with a fair chance.

The people of Africa have become the torch-bearers of a silent democratic revolution; they have cast their vote for a future of democracy and peace. Not only do we hold these noble values dear in their own right, but we nurture them as the vital preconditions for a process of sustainable development and a prosperous future. This, indeed, heralds the dawn of the "African century", during which we believe Africa will accomplish a lot.

It is a cruel reality, however, that as Africa is gathering its strength and energy to prepare for its rebirth, the scourge of HIV/AIDS, with its terrifying consequences for Africa and the entire world, is ravaging our continent. This is a health, social, economic and political challenge that threatens to decimate Africa and other parts of the world. Unless the epidemic is stopped, the "African century" may not be realized. Many African countries, including my own, have launched massive HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns with the limited resources available. Some of these have met with startling success, but in and of themselves, they will probably not be sufficient to turn the tide decisively. The international community must stand shoulder to shoulder with Africa in the grim struggle against this disease — a disease that recognizes no boundary, be it geographic, political or economic.

The time has come for a strengthening of the relationship between Africa and the international community. It must be built on mutual cooperation and respect, with the international community not only involving itself in Africa in times of crisis, but engaging on a long-term and sustainable basis in the development of Africa. We salute the initiatives already launched by some countries and organizations in this regard. However, much remains to be done.

A closer partnership has to be forged between Africa and the developed world in order to help build upon the positive trends which we are observing in the continent, in both the political and economic fields. The African continent, however, needs sustainable development in the long term so that everyone can enjoy a decent standard of living.

The Security Council, in carrying out its mandate for the maintenance of peace and security around the world, can play a critical role in guaranteeing conditions of peace and stability, which will allow for development to take hold. This remains an enormous challenge. I am convinced, however, that the United Nations and its agencies can play an even greater role in the uplift of our continent. We should thus all consider how this very influential global body can maximize its efforts to this end in the millennium that lies ahead of us. And I believe that this "month of Africa" in the Security Council has made a significant contribution towards achieving that goal.

Once more, I should like to thank you, Sir, and to wish the members of the Security Council and the incoming President, Argentina, all the best in moving the process of peace and stability in our continent forward.

The President: I thank the Foreign Minister of South Africa for her kind words addressed to the American presidency. I hope that she will be able to remain with us as long as her schedule permits — I know how tight it is — because, after the round of comments, we hope to follow what we call the "Greenstock rules" and have a very open exchange of views involving, first and foremost, President Chiluba, the President of the General Assembly and herself.

Our next speaker is my friend the representative of Algeria, speaking on behalf of the Organization of African Unity. We regret that Mr. Salim Salim had to return unexpectedly to Africa, but the representative of Algeria is a more than inadequate substitute.

Mr. Baali (Algeria) (*spoke in French*): At its summit meeting in Algiers, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) declared 2000 the year of peace, security and solidarity on our continent. You yourself, Sir, chose to make the first month of the new millennium the

"month of Africa", which, in many ways, it effectively has been. In giving of yourself generously to our cause you have served Africa well, for which we thank you.

Conflicts that for too long have pitted brothers and neighbours against one another have benefited from the attention of the Security Council. Tragedies that have plunged millions of Africans into mourning and that are often both the cause and the direct or indirect consequence of these conflicts have also appeared on the Council's agenda. Even the mass media, which are frequently heedless of Africa and indifferent to its sufferings, efforts and hopes have, in the course of your outstanding presidency, honoured our continent with their interest.

Now that your presidency is coming to an end and media interest has peaked, we feel it fitting and useful to endeavour, in serenity and transparency, to draw conclusions from what has been said within these walls, to recall the forceful images we have each preserved of the presence of so many illustrious African heads of State, to take the measure of the commitments undertaken so as to make them reality and, in the long run, to open new prospects for the relationship Africa seeks to establish with the United Nations.

What we must stress from the start is the tremendous will of African countries to close the chapter on conflict once and for all. Whether concerning the dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea, the situation in Burundi or in Sierra Leone, or yet again in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Africa has indeed, with painstaking and subtle efforts, prepared its own settlement plans and launched processes to re-establish confidence among belligerents and to restore peace, security and stability.

This determination of Africa to reconcile and to set out on the road to recovery has been brilliantly reasserted in this Chamber during this "month of Africa". If that is what was expected of Africa, which it had solemnly undertaken last July in Algiers to accomplish, today it is a done deal.

Now that the Security Council, here in New York, has taken note of the sovereign determination of Africa to live in peace and to abide by the commitments which its leaders have freely undertaken, it must go beyond making declarations of its good intentions and, without hesitation or delay, offer our continent the support and assistance to which it is entitled.

This will require the Council above all to discard its former attitude to Africa, particularly with regard to the deployment of peacekeeping forces. This is clearly relevant to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where the OAU's Joint Military Commission has managed, not without difficulty and despite the conspicuous shortage of men and means, to ensure overall respect for the cessation of hostilities and where the Lusaka process cannot be properly brought to term unless the Security Council authorizes deployment in the field of enough Blue Helmets entrusted with the authority necessary to ensure a genuine return to peace.

In this respect, the Lusaka Agreement, to which the parties have reiterated their commitment and the Security Council its support, is very clear in its call for close coordination between the OAU and the United Nations, which we feel to be absolutely essential to the success of the Lusaka process and must therefore be further strengthened with the full agreement of the parties, in all confidence and transparency. The speedy adoption of a resolution authorizing the deployment of 500 observers and of the four battalions to accompany them would, in this regard, send a strong message that the Security Council has heard and understood the message of Africa.

This would require the Security Council in all cases to maintain its vigilance over the other conflicts besetting the continent and to continue to give its full political support to the efforts being made by the OAU to contain the hotbeds of tension and to achieve or consolidate peace. It must also demonstrate its readiness, goodwill and celerity whenever the pan-African organization needs its technical, logistical, financial or peacekeeping assistance.

It will also require the Council's activities to raise international public awareness of the tragedies caused by the spread of HIV/AIDS and of refugees to be followed up and effectively broadcast to the appropriate forums: the General Assembly, where a Working Group on Africa is preparing to begin its work; the Economic and Social Council, the Bretton Woods institutions and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system.

Lastly, it will require the initiation of more joint endeavours and greater coordination between the OAU and the United Nations on African questions. In the case of the Security Council, both the chairmanship of the OAU and the Secretariat must be closely associated with the consultation and decision-making process. In this

context, I welcome the opportunity to share with the Council today some of Africa's concerns and expectations.

Moreover, as pointed out in the last Security Council meetings of December 1999, we could try to begin regular and more structured consultations between the Council and the OAU. Dispatching joint envoys, establishing working groups and holding joint meetings could also be useful and appropriate.

Similarly, United Nations strengthening of African capabilities in peacekeeping, including through troop training, exchanges of personnel and arrangements establishing logistical partnerships, are ways and means worth exploring.

More than that, what Africa, in its desire to rebuild, expects from the United Nations is that the Organization will accompany it in its recovery effort and that it will help mobilize the financial resources it desperately needs, which shrink year by year, even as the debt burden becomes heavier and export commodity prices become less and less profitable.

In tackling the causes of underdevelopment with determination, as it does today, and in working to promote human rights and democracy, Africa understands well that poverty, ignorance and intolerance are at the root of the conflicts tearing it apart. Here is an area where the Security Council could usefully intervene in order to prevent conflicts that otherwise would be more costly in terms of personnel and resources. Once conflicts have been controlled, the other Council, the Economic and Social Council, should act in coordination with the Security Council in the peace-building process by helping restore trust, stability and normalcy.

These are the initial conclusions the presidency of the OAU wished to share with the Council at the end of a month in which Africa has been at the centre of the international community's concerns. It hopes that they will be fully taken into account and that the Council, far from tiring of Africa, will continue to give it its full attention and that under the Russian presidency of the Council, during the last month of the year 2000, there will be a more peaceful, secure and united Africa; in other words, a renewal of our continent.

The President: It is our highest hope that before we adjourn this meeting we will be able to hear informal responses from President Chiluba, Foreign Minister Dlamini-Zuma and Foreign Minister Gurirab and have an exchange of views under what I like to call "the Greenstock rules". I would only point out that I have been wholly unsuccessful this month in imposing the kind of discipline in the Council that Ambassador Greenstock did last month. I will leave it to the members to decide why he has greater influence than I do over this process. But I do hope we will be able to hear from President Chiluba and Foreign Minister Dlamini-Zuma, in particular since I know both of them are planning to leave the United States later today.

Members of the Council will now speak, beginning with the representative of the People's Republic of China. This will be truly his last appearance with us as China's Permanent Representative. I know he said that before and was asked to stay. We are very glad that he remained for this important debate. We thank you for extending your stay with us, Mr. Ambassador, over the last week when you had other plans. We welcome you to hear your statement and we once again wish you a very good onward mission on behalf of your great country.

Mr. Qin Huasun (China)(*spoke in Chinese*): At the outset, on behalf of the Chinese delegation, please allow me to welcome President Chiluba of Zambia, the Foreign Minister of Namibia and President of the General Assembly, Mr. Gurirab, Foreign Minister Dlamini-Zuma of South Africa, the representative of the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and other distinguished guests at today's meeting.

I also wish to express my appreciation to you, Mr. President, and the Permanent Mission of the United States for your outstanding performance, and to thank you for your kind words and best wishes just expressed on my departure. My many years at the United Nations, and especially in the Security Council, are no doubt going to be the most memorable part of my diplomatic career. I wish to take this opportunity to thank all my colleagues present, all Permanent Representatives and the Secretariat officers and staff for the support and cooperation they have accorded to me and to the Permanent Mission of China in the last few years.

The timely and effective resolution of conflicts in Africa has always been a major task for the Security Council. In the past few years I have sat through many meetings on African issues in the Council Chamber. There have been successes as well as failures, encouraging progress as well as setbacks. We are heartened to see that the situations in the Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone and many other

places are moving towards stability. At the same time, we note with concern that the proposed referendum in Western Sahara is still elusive. Chaos reigns and fighting rages on in Somalia, and the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo drags on.

It is fair to say that in recent years the Council has made some efforts towards resolving African issues. After the Secretary-General submitted a comprehensive report on Africa in 1998, the Council held open debates on the report and adopted a series of follow-up actions. Meetings were convened at the level of Foreign Minister twice in the Council, in 1997 and 1998, to discuss African issues. We also met last year many times in this Chamber to review these issues.

We should also note, however, that the Council's action so far is far from adequate. There is still more rhetoric than real action. In the aftermath of the crises in Kosovo and East Timor, the Council has been under increasing criticism from African countries and the international community for applying double standards. Bridging this gap expeditiously is a great challenge for the Council.

It is gratifying to note that the Council has realized this and is in the process of redressing the problem. In the first month of the new millennium, we have discussed a number of African issues, such as the situations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Angola and Burundi, as well as refugees and HIV/AIDS in Africa. I understand that we are preparing a draft resolution on dispatching military observers and troops to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We sincerely hope that this momentum will be maintained and that concrete results will be achieved at an early date.

This is the last Security Council meeting at which I shall be present. I remember that on 29 September last year, I made a five-point observation on how the international community should deal with African issues. I do not wish to repeat those points today. I wish, however, to emphasize that the Council, as a matter of principle, should give priority to African issues, heed the views of African countries and peoples, demonstrate the necessary political will, commit adequate material and financial resources and work closely with regional organizations in Africa. By doing so it will surely contribute even more to the prevention and resolution of conflicts on the African continent and will play an even more active role in carrying out its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, as entrusted to it by the Charter of the United Nations.

China has always attached great importance to African issues, supported the legitimate demands and reasonable positions of African countries and participated actively in Council deliberations on Africa. That is why my Government instructed me to postpone my departure so that I could be present at last week's open debate on the Democratic Republic of the Congo and at today's wrap-up. I wish to emphasize that the Chinese Government is ready to join the rest of the world in rededicating ourselves to resolving African issues and to helping bring peace and stability to the African people as soon as possible.

Mr. Dejammet (France) (*spoke in French*): Allow me first of all to associate myself with the condolences expressed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Namibia to our friends in Kenya in connection with the recent air disaster there.

I wish also to express our gratitude to the President of Zambia and to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa for having joined us here today.

The very timely debate undertaken at your initiative, Sir, has enabled us during the past few weeks under your presidency to combine general deliberations with deliberations on a number of topics and with the consideration of several specific situations, in the hope that by pooling general and specific deliberations we would be able to agree on concrete action.

On our general deliberations, I believe that taken as a whole the debate you initiated, Sir, enabled us to engage in a prioity assessment of the international community's need to continue to stand by Africa, as was stressed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa, and to emphasize the need for assistance: official assistance. Much has been said about progress linked to globalization and about the merits of growing international trade as a substitute for official assistance. But I believe that the facts show that official development assistance continues to be an absolute necessity; we must provide such assistance.

Even the quite different, private meeting you organized, Sir, with Senator Jesse Helms was not without its usefulness; Senator Helms made reference to the assistance provided by his country and linked it with United Nations resolutions, which was a good thing. This

demonstrated that he understands that the United States is obliged in all respects to implement United Nations resolutions. But, to cite just one example, the figure for official development assistance provided by France — a far less wealthy country than the United States — is virtually identical to the total figure mentioned by Senator Helms. This, I believe, shows that a great deal still remains to be done and that everyone must make an effort to come closer to the percentages agreed upon by the United Nations and the international community for official development assistance.

There must be assistance, as a priority, for Africa. We must acknowledge that, at the origin of so many difficulties, crises and conflicts, there lies the problem of poverty and destitution.

There must be assistance for refugees and displaced persons. Here, Mrs. Ogata's statement was of great interest. She proved that she knew how to be flexible with respect to the statute of her Office and to provide assistance to displaced persons, not solely to refugees. You too, Mr. President, have focused the Council's attention on this matter in a most useful way. Clearly, in the face of situations such as those in Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, it is imperative that we find the means to help internally displaced persons, as well as refugees — irrespective of administrative, technical and constitutional issues. In that connection, your comments, Sir, and those of Mrs. Ogata were most welcome.

There must be assistance to combat the AIDS epidemic, a scourge which has been shown to be one cause of instability and crisis in Africa. Here, let me mention one argument developed by a number of delegations during the debate: preventive measures are not enough; it is necessary also to treat the sick and work to restore them to an adequate state of health. Otherwise, our efforts will be marked by striking inequality, with prevention in the countries of the South and treatment in the countries of the North: an inequality favouring AIDS patients in the countries of the North and marked by a discontinuity between the two approaches. I stress that we must convene a conference making it possible for the countries of the South to have access to medicine and treatment on affordable terms.

There must, of course, be assistance to help African countries to restore peace, including by means of peacekeeping operations. As Ms. Fréchette rightly noted, Mozambique is a very good example, where there has not been a failure. There are a number of other examples that could be cautiously mentioned as well, including what the United Nations has done in the Central African Republic, which has made possible a degree of stabilization sufficient to allow elections to be held in acceptable conditions. But a United Nations operation was required for this to take place.

Let me also note the success of United Nations action in Guinea-Bissau. To be sure, it took place far from the television cameras and was carried out with great discretion. I believe that the Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Samuel C. Nana-Sinkam, did good work in ensuring that the elections could take place in an entirely democratic manner and that good relations could be restored between Guinea-Bissau and its neighbours — all, I repeat, thanks to the assistance which was provided at very low cost by the Representative of the Secretary-General; thus, by the Secretary-General and, hence, by the United Nations. This shows that the United Nations can indeed do useful work in Africa, and at low cost.

Those are all reasons why the Council's general deliberations were of great interest.

I turn now to the crisis situations of which we are so well aware. With respect to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the appearance in New York of all the heads of State who signed the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement was extremely useful. We heard from them a reaffirmation of their commitment to respect and implement the Agreement, as well as their unanimous wish to see the speedy deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation. That was important. The meeting also provided an opportunity for exchanges between the heads of State who are signatories to the Agreement and the Secretary-General, with a view to obtaining clarification from the Secretariat about what the Organization can do — and wants to do — to support the peace process.

Now the ball is back in the court of the Security Council. We are going to have to act. We are going to have to rapidly adopt the draft resolution expanding the mandate and increasing the staffing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), on the basis of the recommendations of the Secretary-General. We are going to have to provide the United Nations with the necessary resources — that is, we will have to pay the contributions that will be required and to provide the personnel and logistic support. We will have to lend our support to the national dialogue. We will have to keep in mind the next stage of

the peacekeeping operation, to which we committed ourselves in the presidential statement of 26 January — and there will be a next stage. This will involve considering very seriously the possibility of securing the borders of the Democratic Republic of the Congo with Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. This would be in the context of responding to the legitimate security needs of all these countries.

It will be necessary, finally, to take steps to ensure that all the parties respect their commitments and implement the Agreement in good faith. As several Council members have suggested, we must also concern ourselves with the question of the illegal exploitation — with the theft, we could say — of the natural resources of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, an illegal exploitation which could be both a purpose of and a means for the occupation of part of the territory of this country by foreign forces. This is an aspect of the situation that we must think about.

Finally, we must support the holding of the international conference on peace, security, democracy and development in the Great Lakes region, a conference that has been endorsed by many Council members, even here this morning, as has been noted by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Namibia. The goal is an international conference. It was the brainchild of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), but it must be jointly organized under the aegis of both the United Nations and the OAU in order to involve the entire international community in all the issues, in particular the issue of aid. This conference project — which, again, was initiated in 1994 by the OAU — has increased in importance over time. We must now try to make the conference a practical reality.

Burundi is another regional situation that has rightfully drawn our attention. This situation can change and has in fact already changed for the better, thanks to President Mandela taking charge and thanks to his authority. We must give him not only our political support but also our financial support. But let us keep in mind that the situation in Burundi is not good. We must not add to the political and security problems facing the country additional problems related to the precariousness of the country's economic situation — a situation that is steadily worsening and that may well, in turn, give rise to extremists of all sorts. Given this situation, we definitely must both be firm on the principles — commitment to the peace process, to the ceasefire and to ceasing to put population groups in camps — and at the same time provide international economic aid to Burundi, in order to help its very poor people. Let us not ignore this need to mix firmness on principles with aid to the people of this country.

As regards Angola, we must continue to support the Lusaka Protocol and the resolutions of the Security Council, in particular those that concern the strict application of the sanctions against UNITA. We must oversee the progress of the establishment of rule of law and of respect for international humanitarian law. We will say more about this soon, during the meetings to be devoted to considering sanctions.

With regard to Sierra Leone, we must as soon as possible adopt the draft resolution that would expand the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and increase its staffing to 11,000 people, so as to reinforce the still-fragile implementation of the Lomé Peace Agreement.

Finally, as regards the problem between Ethiopia and Eritrea — no matter how very sensitive this problem may be, and while we embrace the virtues of discretion and of silent diplomacy — we cannot ignore this conflict, which has already resulted in several tens of thousands of deaths. The Council must therefore be prepared — intellectually at least — to give, at the appropriate time, its concrete support to resolving this conflict.

We might say the same thing about the situation in Somalia. As soon as the proposals of President Guelleh of Djibouti are formalized, it will be useful for the Council to apply all its weight to obtaining the implementation of these proposals by all the parties concerned.

There you have, Sir, in a few words, what seemed to us useful to say once more in the context of thanking you for having devoted the greater part of the Security Council's efforts during your presidency to Africa. In this way, you have shown the commitment of your country to work with others on Africa. We thank you for this, and we invite the upcoming Argentine presidency to make February another "month of Africa", because the subjects that we have dealt with remain extremely important. It is up to Argentina to take and transform the ball that has been passed to it by this excellent player of American football, Mr. Holbrooke.

The President: Thank you, Mr. Ambassador, for your important statement and your kind words. I thank you very much for your support of our efforts this

month. I look forward to continuing to see your support for these efforts as well.

We are now particularly pleased to call on the man to whom this project will fall. As we have said many times: it is not a "month of Africa", it is going to be a "year of Africa", as President Chiluba said. And the baton — the gavel — will be shortly passed to Ambassador Listre.

Mr. Listre (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): Allow me first to associate myself with the words of solidarity that the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Namibia addressed to the parties involved in the tragic air crash that took place yesterday and which particularly affects Kenya.

We would also like to welcome and thank President Chiluba of Zambia for coming here this morning and for making such a brilliant, sincere and profound statement during our debate. We also welcome the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of South Africa and Namibia, who I would particularly like to thank for the warm words that they have extended to me.

We believe that this has really been a meaningful month for Africa and the Security Council. Your firm leadership, Sir, your tireless capacity for taking the initiative and your power to get people to meet have played a decisive role. The Great Lakes region has received particular attention throughout January, and we think that this was necessary.

With regard to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, all of the parties present in New York have engaged in direct dialogue and renewed their commitment to the Lusaka Agreement. The momentum created during this recent period must not be lost. The United Nations has a role to play and an historic responsibility with regard to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Thus Argentina commits itself to working constructively to ensure that the Security Council can adopt a resolution that will authorize the deployment, as speedily as possible, of 500 military observers, with reasonable security guarantees, as recommended by the Secretary-General in his report contained in document S/2000/30.

In this connection we reiterate our firm position regarding respect for the territorial integrity and political sovereignty of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. At the same time, we understand that there will be no lasting solution without an appropriate scheme of security guarantees for all the countries of the Great Lakes region.

As regards Burundi, we trust that the experience and wisdom of President Mandela will contribute to national reconciliation. His words at the historic Security Council meeting of Wednesday, 19 January, showed the parties the course to follow. We reiterate our support for the Arusha process and for a dialogue that would include all the parties, with the ultimate objective of creating and strengthening an open, democratic and tolerant society in Burundi.

The questions of Angola and Sierra Leone also received attention from the Security Council in January. We would like once again to thank Ambassador Fowler for his excellent briefing, at the meeting held on 18 January, on his most recent trip to Angola. The sanctions regime imposed on UNITA is, at long last, beginning to be effective. This is very important because we believe it will help to restore confidence in the Security Council. Having said this, we cannot but express our concern at the continuing armed conflict and the humanitarian situation in Angola — a situation that Mrs. Ogata described on 13 January as being possibly the most serious in Africa. We would reiterate once again our belief that no military solution can bring long-term peace and stability to Angola, and that for this reason the conditions must be created for an open-ended political dialogue. In this context, we believe that a multidimensional United Nations presence must be maintained in Angola.

This month we have successfully negotiated a draft resolution that calls for a considerable expansion of the composition and mandate of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL). That draft, I hope, will be adopted next week. We believe that UNAMSIL will make an important contribution to the Lomé peace process and to stability in the subregion.

Two important open debates on Africa were held in January: the oral briefing by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and the debate on the impact of AIDS on peace and security in Africa. These two issues have led us to consider, as Vice-President Gore indicated to the Security Council on 10 January, a broader concept of threats to international peace and security, which we are charged with monitoring.

Other African issues that were not taken up this month require our attention. Mr. President, you quite rightly called January the "Month of Africa". It has been a month of great effort, activity and creativity, a source of pride to you and to your delegation. During the

Argentine presidency in February, with the contribution and cooperation of the Secretary-General and of all Members of the United Nations, we promise to do our utmost to ensure that the Security Council can continue to contribute to ensuring peace in Africa.

The President: I wish you good luck, Ambassador Listre. Starting in 12 hours and five minutes, it will be all yours.

Mr. Ouane (Mali) (*spoke in French*): First of all, my delegation associates itself with the condolences addressed to the families of the victims of the Kenya Airways crash, which took place off of the coast of Abidjan.

I would also like to hail the presence at this meeting of President Chiluba and thank him for his important statement. I also welcome Mr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, President of the General Assembly, and Ms. Dlamini-Zuma, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa. They have both made very enlightening statements.

I would also like, Mr. President, to reiterate to you and to your delegation the appreciation of the delegation of Mali for your initiative to devote, during the American presidency of the Security Council in January 2000, the highest priority to the consideration of issues related to Africa.

The convening this month of open meetings of the Security Council on the impact of HIV/AIDS on peace and security in Africa, on the question of humanitarian assistance to refugees in Africa, on the situations in Angola and Burundi and on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has made it possible to assess the magnitude of the challenges facing Africa. But above all these meetings made clear the urgent need to make determined and concerted efforts to meet those challenges.

The presence at those meetings of seven African heads of State, of United States Vice-President Al Gore, of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, as well as of numerous ministers and other eminent individuals gave our work during this "Month of Africa" a particular dimension of which we must take full account.

Allow me here to make a few comments before drawing a few conclusions.

Our deliberations during this "Month of Africa" were useful, first of all because they provided a global view of the problems affecting Africa and secondly because they served as a call to action. Moreover, it is through such means — that is, public debate — that issues are grasped and specific measures devised to resolve them.

From that point of view, each of the public meetings held this month reflected a specific dimension of Africa's present challenges. The meeting devoted to the impact of HIV-AIDS on peace and security in Africa made it possible on the one hand to draw the attention of the Security Council to the burden that the AIDS epidemic represents for the development of Africa, and on the other hand to plan for security in a broader context. The meeting on the question of humanitarian assistance to refugees in Africa dealt with one of the major challenges facing Africa today and echoed the very strong appeal made to the Security Council to respond by shouldering its responsibilities.

The meetings devoted to the consideration of the situations in Angola, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo illustrated that in those cases, as in others, the primary responsibility for African problems rests first and foremost with the Africans themselves.

Thus, faced with the AIDS epidemic, the African countries must, as was emphasized by President Alpha Oumar Konaré in his message of 10 January 2000 to the President of the Security Council, wage a campaign through which the African leaders would shoulder their share of responsibility. In Angola and Burundi, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in Sierra Leone in particular, it must be understood that lasting peace and national reconciliation can be brought about only through political dialogue.

Our deliberations throughout this "Month of Africa" have made clear the hopes and expectations for greater solidarity and support on the part of the international community in continuing the efforts of the African countries. Those hopes and expectations must, as we see it, be based on an international partnership that is reflected in specific actions.

Thus the international community must, as it is being urged to do by President Konaré, step up the global quest to resolve the issue of AIDS, enhance prevention and provide the necessary support for the millions of persons affected by HIV and AIDS, in particular the men, women and children of Africa.

In that same context, and in keeping with the demands made by Council members at the meeting held on 10 January, high priority must be attached to the follow-up measures advocated by the secretariat of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in close cooperation with that body's sponsoring organizations, the Member States and other international partners. We believe also that there must be an early implementation of the recommendation regarding the convening, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, of a partnership meeting with the participation of the donor countries, the countries of Africa, pharmaceutical industries and UNAIDS, in order to facilitate access to medicines by those affected by HIV/AIDS in the developing countries, in particular in Africa.

We believe that it is also pivotal for the international community to provide the bodies charged with providing humanitarian assistance with sufficient financial resources, taking into account Africa's considerable needs in this area.

The expansion of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and the rapid deployment of a peacekeeping operation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are two priority measures which the international community must fully support. Subsequent resolutions must, in my delegation's view, be adopted as quickly as possible.

Stepped-up assistance for the Arusha peace process is needed to support President Mandela's efforts as Facilitator to achieving a peaceful solution to the conflict in Burundi. The international community must also provide its full support to Sir Ketumile Masire as facilitator of the inter-Congolese dialogue.

As regards the situation in Angola, while reaffirming the support of my delegation for the activities of the sanctions Committee against UNITA under the leadership of Ambassador Fowler, I would like to emphasize the need to finalize, as soon as possible, formalities for the implementation of the Status of Mission Agreement regarding the United Nations Office in Angola, and the official in charge must be appointed as quickly as possible.

What lessons can we learn at the end of this "month of Africa"? The first is that our deliberations doubtless will contribute to an intensified mobilization of the international community to bring about the establishment of peace and stability in Africa. This is why it is of the greatest importance that appropriate follow-up mechanisms be established. The Council must see to this. We hope that the Argentine presidency will intensify this dynamic already begun. Secondly, our deliberations have illustrated, it seems to me, the complexity of African issues, in particular as regards the consideration of the situation regarding the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The support of the international community for holding an international conference on peace, security and development in the Great Lakes region under the aegis of the United Nations and the OAU seems to us a timely initiative. Thirdly, it is clear that Africa needs the United Nations, particularly to support its regional initiatives, as is the case in Sierra Leone, or to cope with the AIDS epidemic.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the American presidency for having initiated this "month of Africa". I warmly congratulate you, Mr. President, on your talent and your personal efforts that have made it possible for the Security Council, at each of these meetings, to reach effective conclusions. I would also like to thank the other Council members for their constructive participation in these debates that are so important for Africa.

The President: I thank the representative of Mali for his kind words.

I hope that we can move as quickly as possible through the remaining nine speakers in order to hear observations and responses from our visitors from Zambia and South Africa and have an exchange of views.

Mr. Hasmy (Malaysia): My delegation associates itself with the words of condolence expressed by the Foreign Minister of Namibia in respect to the tragic Kenyan air crash.

My delegation also joins others in welcoming our distinguished guests here at this morning's meeting: His Excellency the President of Zambia, Her Excellency the Foreign Minister of South Africa and His Excellency the Foreign Minister of Namibia and President of the General Assembly.

I wish to make some brief comments, as we agree with and entirely associate ourselves with many of the points have been made by others this morning. Allow me to commend you once again, Mr. President, for focusing on Africa during your Council presidency for the month of January. It has been a useful, indeed exhilarating, month during which not only Council members but also the larger membership of the Organization and even some concerned members of civil society have been educated.

We also received a useful education on the complex workings of American politics during our meeting with Senator Jesse Helms. We believe that that dialogue was equally useful.

During this month, we have dealt with many important African issues, especially that of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This has been an extremely useful exercise. However, a number of other African issues have not been addressed — namely, those relating to Ethiopia and Eritrea, Somalia and Western Sahara. My delegation would like to believe, and to stress, that they were left out not because they were less important. These other issues remain important, and we hope the Council will give them as much attention in the coming months.

During this month the Council has focused on Africa in a way that it has not done before. Lasting one entire month, this focus on Africa might perhaps have dispelled the impression that there is a bias on the part of the Council towards other regions. The United States presidency of the Council has focused, or refocused, the Council's attention on Africa, for which my delegation, as do others, commend the President. But equally important — indeed, more important, in my view — is the need for follow-up actions, which you yourself just now underscored, Mr. President. These follow-ups should be our next order of business relating to Africa, beginning next month under the Argentine presidency, and under subsequent presidencies.

My delegation had very much hoped that at least on one particular issue, that of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Council would have been able to initiate a resolution authorizing a United Nations peacekeeping force in that country. We earnestly hope that what we were not able to do this month on the Democratic Republic of the Congo we will be able to do, if not next month, certainly as soon as possible, as time is of the essence if we want to build on the Lusaka Agreement, an agreement so painstakingly put together and one that we all believe remains the only viable basis for a lasting solution of the conflict in that country. Our ability to do so with the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well to carry out the other follow-up actions ahead of us, will in large measure reflect the success of the American presidency of the Council for this opening month of the new millennium. We are confident that having initiated the process, the United States will put its mighty weight behind the important follow-up process.

The challenge before the Council, as I have heard from statements made this morning — including that of the Permanent Representative of Algeria next to me, who represents the chairmanship of the Organization of African Unity — is that the Council must go beyond words to actions — concrete actions. I believe the Council will be able to meet this challenge.

The President: I know that President Chiluba is going to have to leave shortly, so I will ask him if he would like to make any observations on what he has heard so far, just informally, to give us a sense of how he feels things are going and where he would hope that we could assist him beyond his important speech, based on what he has heard, in taking the Lusaka peace process forward.

President Chiluba: Let me apologize, because originally I was told to make a statement and leave. I did not prepare my mind, and I find it a little difficult to respond. Let me just say that it seems the spirit is very much alive. All the contributions that have been made by various ambassadors point to one thing: that there is readiness, willingness and goodwill to help us resolve the problem in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in Burundi and in all other troubled areas of our region, including Angola.

Mr. President, I can only encourage you. We are determined; we are going back; we will have meetings; we want to follow this up. We want to implement the whole peace process. We are especially very afraid that if the internal dialogue under Sir Ketumine Masire does not succeed, this might bring about skirmishes and start the fighting all over again. So, we want the United Nations to move. All the ambassadors have said so. Less rhetoric and more action: I think this is the message for all of us.

I want to thank all the ambassadors who have spoken — the Ambassadors of China, France, Malaysia and Mali. I will take the message back home to the region that the Security Council is more willing than before to assist in this matter.

The President: I believe that the President of Zambia is accurate in his assessment of the message that he is taking away. If he does not have time to listen to the next speakers, we will understand. We thank him enormously for coming back to New York and giving us our final mission.

Sir Jeremy Greenstock (United Kingdom): There is no doubt that the "month of Africa" was to some extent a calculated risk. It has drawn attention to a continent of huge problems where the Security Council has been trying hard but has not achieved the results that we or Africans wanted. But I, personally, believe that it was an exceptional initiative and was thoroughly worth doing, if only to bring into public relief the need for a greater effort on Africa. That, itself, was worth doing. It has, of course, created expectations. I do not think that President Chiluba and the Foreign Ministers of South Africa and of Namibia would be with us this morning unless they wanted to check whether the Security Council was following up on the rhetoric. I think that that is what we have got to do.

We have seen some concrete results. The Burundi debate provided an important platform for former President Mandela's facilitation. The Angola meeting helped keep pressure on arms supplies. My Minister of State, Peter Hain, today made another statement, in South Africa, to draw attention to the United Kingdom's determination to follow up on particular abuses of sanctions and to try to bring people to justice. The debate on the Democratic Republic of the Congo achieved the strong recommitment of the parties to Lusaka and made more likely the early sending of a peacekeeping force to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The ground-breaking debate on AIDS also brought that issue to the centre of the Council's agenda. I believe that it would be right to bring it to the attention of the General Assembly and also for the Council to follow up the AIDS debate in checking, in liaison with other United Nations organs, how to move United Nations action on AIDS forward.

The Security Council's special concern with Africa did not begin this month, and it will not end this month. We have already spent a great deal of time in the past two years trying to help Africans get Africa right. Some of our efforts were perhaps better targeted than others. Mrs. Ogata's message on refugees and internally displaced persons was a very important one. But I do not think that the Council knows how we are going to follow it up. There are relentless challenges that have stretched the resources of the Council and the Secretariat to the breaking point. How are we going to deal with the issue of resources?

Overall, however, I think that the Council's record on Africa is improving. We now have a substantial peacekeeping operation up and running in Sierra Leone, which the Deputy Secretary-General has called the most immediate test for the Council in Africa. The United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic is drawing to a successful conclusion. Ambassador Fowler's efforts on Angola really have put the squeeze on UNITA's sanctions busters. Another example is the work of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on Ethiopia and Eritrea. Although we have not taken that work forward in the Council, there has been good liaison between the United Nations and the OAU on a very discreet and confidential mediation effort which I hope is now beginning to bear results.

We have concentrated in particular, however, on the Democratic Republic of the Congo. I think that that is now going to be the most conspicuous test of whether this month has been worth it. The United Kingdom hopes that work will begin immediately on a draft resolution and that it can be completed this week. The Lusaka parties have made it quite clear that the longer they have to wait for the deployment of these observers to monitor the ceasefire and redeployment of forces, the less likely it is that their commitments will hold and that national reconciliation will be a reality.

United States efforts in the past month have therefore demonstrated how important high-profile, big-impact diplomacy is for making progress on Africa's problems. But let us not lose sight of the importance of other approaches — less headline-grabbing, and perhaps lower key, but, in the long term, just as critical to success for the United Nations Africa agenda and for the triumph of results over rhetoric.

In December, Minister Peter Hain chaired a meeting on Africa in this Chamber from which he drew a number of conclusions. He noted that there was a broad consensus in favour of regular and more structured consultation and coordination between the Council and the OAU and regional bodies; of the greater use of tools such as joint envoys and missions, an issue which Ambassador Baali brought up this morning; and of more regular meetings between the Security Council, the OAU and subregional bodies. Mr. Hain also drew attention to the peacekeeping needs of Africa, and to the need to increase capacity, an issue on which we need to do more and to do so early.

All of these points need to be acted upon. I would like, in particular, to see a more regular dialogue with the OAU; that has not yet been established. I think that we would have raised that issue with Secretary-General Salim had he been here. We need to work on that now, to make sure that it happens on a regular basis. With that partly in mind, I want to make a modest proposal for

taking forward some of these ideas from the "month of Africa". I suggest that the Africa experts of Council members establish themselves as an informal but permanent working group to look at African problems — away from the day-to-day demands of Secretariat briefings, mandate renewals and other Council business. The purpose of such a group would not be to draft statements or resolutions but to examine whether the Council is using all the appropriate tools at its disposal to follow up on this month; to ask why certain issues are perhaps not being brought before the Council; to consider whether a group of friends or a contact group might have useful input on a particular Council item; to check whether the provisions of Council resolutions on Africa are being properly implemented; and to consider whether briefings by the OAU or regional African Group representatives could help inform the Council's work.

Such a working group might have regular meetings with the representative of the Chairman or the Secretary-General of the OAU. Our colleagues will have other and different ideas, and we look forward to discussing them in this forum and more informally. We look to the Argentine presidency to take forward some of these ideas as soon as it can put them on the schedule. But one way or another, let us agree today to use the energy, imagination and focus generated by the "month of Africa" to fuel a continuing and productive effort.

The President: I thank the representative of the United Kingdom for his kind words of support. I again want to echo the importance of the precursor work done in the meetings held during the United Kingdom's presidency in the month of December.

Mr. Duval (Canada) (*spoke in French*): Canada welcomes the initiatives that you, Mr. President, have taken this month. They represent a step towards the more vigorous commitment of the Council and its members to Africa. Today, several speakers have stated that the primary challenge facing us is that of transforming those commitments into concrete actions and, as Ambassador Greenstock has just stressed, of making our action in Africa more effective.

We also welcome the debates that have taken place on thematic issues confronting Africa, such as AIDS, refugees and internally displaced persons. Those meetings emphasized the importance of human security in the mandate and the work of the Council and demonstrate that if they are to lead to action, such public meetings must provide the opportunity for us to hear and to be heard. In this regard, this month has taught us many lessons.

Canada welcomes the participation of the Facilitator for Burundi, Mr. Mandela; the Facilitator for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sir Ketumile Masire; the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), Mr. Salim Salim; and President Chiluba, one of the principal architects of the Lusaka Agreement. Indeed, this has been an important phase in the establishment of a closer relationship, more focused on cooperation, between the Security Council and the OAU, as well as between the Council and the heads of the regional and subregional initiatives for peace and security in Africa.

We eagerly await the speedy adoption of the draft resolution, on which we have reached agreement in the course of this month, to provide for a peacekeeping mission in Sierra Leone. The new mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone is a model to follow for forthcoming missions that will require vigorous peacekeeping and a commitment to acting firmly and to deploying troops on the basis of needs in the field. This is also the first mission which has a significant disarmament, demobilization and reintegration element, which demonstrates that, when there is a need to do so, the members of the Security Council are able to draw lessons from past experience.In the same spirit, we are grateful to the Secretary-General for his initiative to establish a demining centre, which is considered to be an important measure for protecting civilians.

We have been honoured by the presence of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Mrs. Ogata, who rightly emphasized the importance of the role of the Security Council when it is called on to respond quickly to the needs of millions of displaced Africans. The fate of populations affected by war depends directly on our action or inaction. The international community must adopt more energetic measures to eliminate the deep-rooted causes of population displacement. Canada unreservedly supports the mission of Mr. Mandela and the Foreign Minister of Namibia, who, in their statements to the Council, emphasized that all those involved in conflicts in Africa must commit themselves to respecting peace, democracy and human rights. That responsibility cannot be shirked.

The establishment of lasting peace requires all those involved in conflicts — Governments and others — to bear responsibility for protecting refugees and displaced

persons within their territories and for establishing conditions to facilitate their return. They must also allow all those who so require to have safe and unimpeded access to humanitarian assistance and they must guarantee the safety, security and freedom of movement of United Nations and associated personnel.

Canada is deeply concerned by the numerous attacks against United Nations personnel, in particular those who are locally recruited and those responsible for humanitarian assistance. We have seen such acts of aggression over the past few months in Angola, the Sudan and Somalia. The dramatic increase in the number of such victims among humanitarian personnel requires us to take urgent action to provide for their protection. Practical measures must be undertaken to provide for the protection of civilian and humanitarian personnel, and the perpetrators of criminal actions must also be brought to justice. All those who violate human rights and humanitarian law must be brought speedily to justice if we wish to eliminate the culture of impunity.

We welcome the firm support of the members of the Council for the efforts being made to implement the Council's sanctions against UNITA. It is critical for the Council to consider, speedily and in depth, the recommendations of the expert panel. Over the course of the month, we have drawn the Council's attention to the relevant information that we have obtained in Angola on the current situation of UNITA and its operating methods. This information was communicated to the expert panel of the Angola sanctions Committee, which will take it into account in making recommendations on ways to strengthen the effectiveness of the sanctions imposed by the United Nations.

We have also informed the Security Council of the information we have obtained on the two United Nations aircraft that were shot down and on those accused of the crime. We urge the Council officially to identify those responsible for these criminal acts and to ensure that they be brought to justice.

Canada is convinced that the new Facilitator of the Arusha peace process, former President Nelson Mandela, will succeed in persuading all the parties, including the rebel groups, to conclude a peace agreement. We reiterate our support for a negotiated political solution, which we feel to be the best way to establish a lasting peace so that Burundi may enjoy lasting and long-term development and development assistance may be effective.

Canada condemns the policy of the Government of Burundi of displacing populations and forcing them into camps to which humanitarian personnel have limited access. This is a fundamental violation of the rights of the citizens of Burundi. These camps must be dismantled and all the parties to the conflict must guarantee unimpeded and safe access to the victimized populations and the protection and respect of refugees and internally displaced persons. All those who wish to return home in safety must be allowed to do so.

The open meeting on the Democratic Republic of the Congo allowed the peace process to be relaunched. It is critical that members of the Council involve themselves in this effort. In the course of their statements at that meeting, speakers emphasized the importance of implementing the various elements of the Lusaka Agreement as quickly as possible. We also hope that the Facilitator of the inter-Congolese dialogue will have the resources necessary to begin his work. His role will make a major contribution to efforts designed to guarantee stability and democratic and institutional development in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The conclusions of the independent inquiry into the United Nations actions in Rwanda highlight the responsibility to respond effectively and speedily to protect populations exposed to imminent danger, as well as that which falls to the international community. The responsibility to implement the ceasefire and all the provisions of the Lusaka Agreement devolves first and foremost, however, to its signatories. Nevertheless, an international peacekeeping presence is required to assist the various participants successfully to conclude this task and to strengthen confidence in the peace process.

The Council is in the process of elaborating a draft resolution on the second phase of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC). My delegation reaffirms its conviction that missions in unstable areas, such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, must have strong mandates and sufficient resources. Although we are satisfied by the consensus established among the members of the Council that the next phase should fall within the framework of Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, the troop numbers proposed by the Secretary-General seem insufficient to us for the Mission successfully to fulfil its mandate and to secure the safety of personnel.

Once again, we wish to emphasize the importance of providing support, particularly financial support, for

the Joint Military Commission and of encouraging the rapid harmonization of its activities with those of the Mission.

(*spoke in English*)

In conclusion, we want to congratulate you, Sir, and to thank you for your efforts this month.

(*spoke in Spanish*)

We wish to pursue this very creative work with the Ambassador of Argentina.

The President: I thank the representative of Canada for his kind trilingual words.

Mr. Mustapha (Tunisia) (*spoke in Arabic*): Allow me at the outset to congratulate and salute President Chiluba; the Foreign Minister of Namibia, the current President of the General Assembly; the Foreign Minister of South Africa; and my brother, Ambassador Baali, speaking on behalf of President Bouteflika, the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). I also wish to commend the continuous efforts he is undertaking and to support his proposal concerning the importance of coordination between the OAU and the Security Council.

I would also like at the beginning to express to you, Mr. President, our appreciation for setting up January 2000 to study African issues. There are a number of questions that we all agree are very important, and we consider that your choice of them has been very wise. In addition to the issues of peace and security in some African countries, we have not ignored some general issues of great importance to the whole continent such as refugees and AIDS. We will perhaps deal with other issues in the future, issues that are no less important, such as combating poverty and starvation as major causes of conflicts and deterioration in the political, social and security situation. We have attached great important to ending the conflict in Angola. The presence of President Nelson Mandela here was a significant event that highlighted the importance of the continuation of the Arusha peace process, the Security Council's support for his efforts and the continued support of the international community. The meeting on the Democratic Republic of the Congo was undoubtedly of great significance.

Participants have linked HIV/AIDS and the question of refugees to the problem of peace and security in Africa. As we come to the end of January 2000, and not to the end of the "month of Africa", as we hope that every year will be a "year of Africa", we wish to reaffirm the necessity of following up the outcome of these meetings, as many previous speakers have already emphasized, so that Africa will continue to be a main priority for the Council throughout the year so that we can translate sincere political will and promises into deeds.

In this context, allow me to make a few remarks. First, concerning HIV/AIDS, the discussion has increased awareness of the danger of this epidemic and of the importance of moving swiftly to adopt a comprehensive, stable strategy, in coordination with the specialized agencies, in order to put an end to the escalation of this epidemic. The commitments stemming from the meeting on this issue, particularly those mentioned by the representative of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) provide the best incentive for the international community to make more efforts and to follow up on such efforts. We look forward to the reports presented by UNAIDS concerning what will be achieved in implementation of the many recommendations in this area.

On another subject, the Security Council has emphasized the importance of redoubling efforts in order to allow the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to give humanitarian assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons and to find solutions to their problems and situations. We note the attention given to this issue by the Security Council. We wish to emphasize, along with previous speakers, that we must adopt practical measures in order to implement the proposals presented by Mrs. Ogata of UNHCR. We wish to reiterate the international community's appeal for support for African States in building their capabilities so they can deal with the problem of refugees and displaced persons and with their major causes, and in finding political solutions that would help bring about peace, development and stability in the region.

As for the long-standing conflict in Angola, which is considered one of the major challenges facing the international community in general and the Security Council in particular, we wish to reaffirm our satisfaction with the announcement of the Angolan Government that it will hold firmly to the Lusaka Protocol as a basis for the peace process. We call upon UNITA, the party primarily responsible for the war's continuation, to prove that it is fulfilling its commitments in accordance with the Lusaka Protocol. The fact that the Security Council has unanimously agreed to find a solution to the conflict in

Angola, to compel UNITA to stop defying the international community and to continue the sanctions regime is a clear message concerning the Council's commitment. We look forward in this regard to considering the report presented by the sanctions Committee on new measures that might be taken by the Council.

In considering the situation in Burundi, the Council renewed its strong support for the Arusha peace process. We heard President Mandela express his views and advice on the Arusha peace process. We hope that he will give us a fresh evaluation of what has been achieved in that regard. Security Council resolution 1286 (1999) appealed to all parties, and it is incumbent upon us to evaluate in the near future the parties' respect for this resolution.

Regarding the discussion of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, we have reaffirmed our position through the presidential statement made by you, Mr. President, on behalf of the Council, concerning the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its sovereignty over its natural resources, in accordance with the United Nations Charter and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Charter. This was one of the most important outcomes of that meeting. We called for an immediate halt to all military hostilities and for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. These are basic conditions needed for the transitional period. The Council has shown its support for and determination to uphold the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement. This reaffirmation shows once again that this Agreement is the way to find a solution.

We must now accelerate the dispatch of military observers to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We hope that the Council will adopt a resolution immediately to extend the mandate of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in accordance with the Secretary-General's report of 17 January 2000 (S/2000/30). We expect all parties to the conflict to cooperate with and support the United Nations Mission and the United Nations Special Envoy. The degree of cooperation with this Mission will show how the Lusaka Agreement will be implemented. Similarly, we must emphasize the importance of national dialogue in the next phase, and we hope that the international community, and the United Nations in particular, will support this dialogue and the work of President Masire by providing the necessary resources and cooperation.

The meeting on the Democratic Republic of the Congo opened a constructive dialogue among all parties to the conflict, the signatories to the Lusaka Agreement, the Security Council and the Secretary-General. It was also an opportunity for some parties to the conflict to sit together and have a close and direct dialogue. That was a great achievement. We look forward to the repetition of this type of meeting. We are optimistic vis-à-vis any initiative that starts a dialogue between the parties because dialogue leads to understanding, builds trust and hastens progress towards organizing an international conference on the situation in the Great Lakes region, as proposed by Egypt and France.

In conclusion, we believe that these open meetings have led to increasing transparency in the work of the Council. Direct involvement of the parties in the discussion will give us a unique opportunity for dialogue and will encourage the resolution of such problems. There is no alternative to dialogue. The results were very positive and there is conviction within the Council that we should work quickly to deal with the issues that have been discussed. We propose in this context that the Council undertake practical evaluations of the degree to which these results have been implemented.

Allow us, at the end of this month and of your successful presidency, Sir, to welcome the next President, Argentina. We look forward to another month of vigour and revitalization. We promise the incoming President our cooperation and wish him every success.

I also wish to join those who preceded me in expressing our condolences to the families of the victims of the Kenyan aircraft crash.

The President: Let me comment, in my capacity as President, on two very important points just made by the representative of Tunisia. First, on a draft resolution: a text is now beginning to be discussed among members of the Security Council, in close consultation with Ambassador Listre, and is circulating. As to the speed with which we can adopt it, I know that many of the African nations wanted it adopted in January; the speed with which the draft resolution can be considered will be determined by the specific reactions to it.

Secondly, the representative of Tunisia made a very important point, which I should like to pick up, on support for the Joint Military Commission (JMC) and for former President Masire. I will be circulating a letter this afternoon — as my final act in the presidency, I think —

bringing to the attention of Member States the unanimous desire of the Security Council that Member States should support those two missions. We already have contributions of $2 million from the United States, $500,000 from Japan and $1 million from Canada. It is my hope that every member of the Security Council will offer at least symbolic support, even if it is only $10,000 or $25,000. It is also my hope that other States, many of whose representatives are here with us today, will, to the extent that they can, contribute money so that we do not repeat the lamentable sight that I personally saw in Bosnia after the Dayton Peace Agreement, when the High Representative, Carl Bildt — who was not responsible to the United Nations but who otherwise had similar responsibilities — had no money from anyone and was operating out of his suitcase, using his personal cell phone, for the first critical few weeks. It was very lamentable; it hurt the implementation of Dayton. We would not want the implementation of Lusaka to suffer in the same way.

Mr. Hamer (Netherlands): I would like to join those speakers before me who expressed their feelings of distress and sorrow over the tragedy which has befallen Kenya and Côte d'Ivoire.

I would like now to make some general remarks concerning our "month of Africa" and then to focus more specifically on some conclusions regarding the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The United States presidency has, if I may use an understatement, adopted a high-visibility approach to selected African topics. That high-visibility approach, to our eyes, had the additional virtue of fitting exceptionally well with the desire for improved transparency expressed by my own and by most other delegations of non-permanent members.

It is worth noting in passing that our successful "month of Africa" was not exactly a month of legal advisers. Your refreshing approach, Mr. President, has done wonders in cutting away a lot of procedural dead wood, for which future generations of Security Council presidents will owe you gratitude.

Through your efforts also, Sir, the Security Council has returned to the public spotlight, not only through its highly successful meeting on Burundi in the presence of former President Mandela, but also through its meetings on the AIDS tragedy with its particularly poignant consequences for Africa, on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and on other African issues. This public spotlight is important. A Security Council that does not have public support will lose in effectiveness, and you, Mr. President, have done a lot to hone our sensitivity on this point.

But let us be cautious at the same time. The public appetite for Security Council debates is surely not insatiable. We must reserve these events for very special causes and leave ourselves sufficient time to concentrate on the less visible, but ultimately crucial, preparation of Security Council action.

So where do we go next? Hopefully, by the time the next ministerial meeting takes place, in September of this year, the Council's relentless attention to African issues will actually begin to yield fruit. The particular relevance of that ministerial meeting to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for instance, is clear for all to see, with the attention it will be giving to the follow-up of Security Council resolutions 1196 (1998), 1197 (1998) and 1209 (1998), on arms embargoes, peacekeeping mechanisms and illicit arms flows to and in Africa respectively.

Let me now try to draw some brief conclusions from last week's debate on the Democratic Republic of the Congo. To our mind, the debate confirmed that there is no alternative to the Lusaka Agreement, which shows that we are on the right road. But at the same time, we are in for a very bumpy ride on that road, as seen in the recent resumption of ceasefire violations. Most encouraging is that contacts among the protagonists are possible and useful. Encouraging also is that the debate gave the international community a renewed sense of urgency in making the Lusaka Agreement work. At last, the United Nations is about to embark upon a very substantive exercise of implementation of the Lusaka Agreement on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General (S/2000/30).

I believe that it is important to remind the Council and others of the statement to the press made by the United Kingdom presidency of the Council on 22 December 1999. Through that statement, Council members reiterated the willingness of the United Nations to be seriously involved. But at the same time, Council members pointed out that, in order to play its role in a peacekeeping operation, the United Nations must be confident that the parties themselves are determined to refrain from all hostile acts and to respect the ceasefire. This remains for us the guideline for our future involvement.

Of paramount importance to any solution in the Democratic Republic of the Congo will be the way we

deal with the very real life-and-death issues of the illegal flows of arms to and in Africa and the related problem of the illegal exploitation of the natural resources of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and, may I add, of other resource-rich areas of conflict in Africa, such as Angola, Sierra Leone and others. Practical approaches, including voluntary arms embargoes, to these challenges were outlined by my own and other delegations last week.

Equally crucial to finding a solution is how we deal with the problem of Interahamwe, ex-Rwandan Armed Forces (FAR) and other groups. In our view, that solution cannot be achieved through military means. Perhaps the Mozambican example — the combined legal and financial arrangements to induce soldiers to lay down their arms and return to their homes — can serve as a model in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

With regard, finally, to the Joint Military Commission (JMC), my Government has pledged $250,000, and has expressed a firm intention to assist financially the work of the facilitator, former President Masire.

January's African agenda was inevitably a selection from among the African issues before the Council. Issues such as Ethiopia-Eritrea and Western Sahara did not make it this time. Still, the Council should take the time to look at these issues again, for, while the Council has shown itself capable of dealing with complex matters such as East Timor, Sierra Leone and now even the Democratic Republic of the Congo, somehow the Council has not been capable of stopping the foot-dragging by parties on those other issues.

Finally, Sir, like the Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Fréchette, you said earlier today that the key word at this stage is "follow-up". Maybe in your summing up as the final speaker you could formulate, or try to formulate, a number of key elements or benchmarks by which to measure the Council's follow-up at regular intervals in the near future.

The President: On a personal basis, I share the views of the representative of the Netherlands about lawyers. But on an official basis, I am compelled to protest seriously. I am appreciative of Ambassador Hamer's remarks, and hope that we can proceed and be worthy of what he has just said.

Mr. Yel'chenko (Ukraine): We too would like to express our gratitude to President Chiluba and to the other prominent speakers who addressed the Council today, reiterating the urgency of the problems facing Africa. As the representative of a country that maintains close traditional ties with African States and that has pledged to address their specific interests as a member of the Security Council, I would like to reiterate Ukraine's resolve to act in support of peace and development in Africa.

We are greatly satisfied that, thanks to the remarkable initiative of the United States presidency, the first month of Ukraine's membership in the Council has been a month of focused concentration on African issues. Certainly the Security Council does not possess a magic wand for resolving all outstanding problems overnight. However, it would be really hard to deny that January 2000 has been an extraordinary month for both the African continent and the Security Council itself. This year's first open meeting, on 10 January, was innovative in all respects. It set an important precedent by turning our attention to those aspects of the maintenance of international peace and security that had often been overlooked in the Council's day-to-day work.

I wish to reiterate my delegation's strong hope and confidence that our consideration of the issue of AIDS will provide a powerful impetus for reaching a new stage in the international community's struggle against AIDS. For this purpose, the delegations of Namibia, Canada and Ukraine submitted to you, Mr. President, specific proposals regarding possible follow-up action. We thank you for taking up these proposals.

Humanitarian aspects of international crises, including the refugee problem, have been on the Council's agenda for some time. Here, too, it is important that our discussions make a real difference on the ground. Special missions of the Council and preventive deployment may be steps that can show the Council's willingness to put the issue of refugee protection, which is so acute in Africa, on a practical track.

Special prominence during this "month of Africa" in the Security Council was given to the situation in Angola. After the outstanding briefing by Ambassador Fowler on the results of his visit to that country, we have even more evidence that the Security Council is in a position to make a tangible contribution to achieving the ultimate goal of restoring peace and security in Angola.

This month the Security Council was also privileged to seat at its table one of the most prominent statesmen of

our epoch, Mr. Nelson Mandela, who has been designated as the new Facilitator for the Arusha peace process. We very much hope that the strong support provided by the Council for the new Facilitator will boost his efforts to achieve a peaceful solution to the conflict in Burundi.

Finally, last week the Security Council addressed the major challenge facing the international community at the turn of the century. The historic meeting on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has resulted in a twofold recommitment. The first part was the assurance of the parties to the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement that they will respect this instrument as the only viable basis for the resolution of the conflict. The second part was the undertaking by the United Nations to support the implementation of the Lusaka Agreement. Furthermore, this was also perhaps the first time in several decades that the Security Council really held a meeting in the terms of Article 32 of the United Nations Charter, according to which the Council has an obligation to invite the parties to a dispute to participate in its discussions. We look forward to the deployment, without further delay, of a strong, full-fledged United Nations peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Let us also not ignore the other conflicts in Africa, which were rightly mentioned by Ambassador Greenstock as well as by Ambassador Hamer. We fully support the idea of establishing an expert group of the Security Council on Africa.

Let me conclude by highlighting one more innovation that promises to enrich both the Council's procedures and the diplomatic process. We are all familiar with the good old custom of greeting the incoming President at the first meeting of the month. I am certainly not suggesting that you, Mr. President, convened this meeting on the last day of the month intentionally, with a view to collecting some extra salutations. Nonetheless, we gladly seize this opportunity to extend our most sincere congratulations on the successful completion of your first, yet truly excellent presidency of the Security Council. We express again our gratitude for your efforts to further raise the prestige of this organ in international politics.

The President: Thank you, Mr. Ambassador, for your kind words. What you refer to as my first presidency is also undoubtedly going to be my last. That is either good news or bad news; it depends on your point of view.

With the permission of Ambassador Gatilov, I would now like to call on Foreign Minister Dlamini-Zuma of South Africa, who will have to leave shortly, and ask her if she would like to make any informal observations about what she has heard over the last two and a half hours, and whether she has any final thoughts for us.

Ms. Dlamini-Zuma (South Africa): First of all, just generally, I am quite encouraged by the remarks I have heard, because no one has said that the "month of Africa" has come to an end, and that is the end of the attention to these issues. Rather, everyone has said, as Ambassador Greenstock put it, that rhetoric must be followed by action. I think that many of the Ambassadors have said this as well. This is really very important.

Turning to a few of the issues: as regards Burundi, I think it is very important, obviously, to support the peace process there, as everyone has said, and to support former President Mandela. I just want to pick up on one issue that the French Ambassador mentioned — about putting a lot of political pressure on the parties in Burundi while at the same time providing some economic relief so that the country does not deteriorate and end up in chaos. That in itself would set the peace process back many years. So I agree with the French Ambassador that this is very important and should be followed up on.

On the question of AIDS, I cannot overemphasize that, though AIDS is a global problem, Africa at the moment is bearing the brunt of the epidemic, and it needs all the support it can get from everyone. So we hope that this will be followed up on. I am glad to hear that the General Assembly will be debating this.

Some comments that were made on Angola were very encouraging: first, paying attention to the humanitarian crisis there and, secondly, undertaking many measures to implement the sanctions against UNITA, following the report of Ambassador Fowler. This is very important. In addition, I think it was the Argentine Ambassador who said that there should be openness to discussions aimed at finding a political solution, because a military solution cannot be long-lasting. I agree with him there.

On the question of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, it is encouraging to hear that there will be a resolution that will mandate the United Nations to send more observers and a force with a Chapter VII to act in that country. It also will be important to make sure to prepare for the next phase — the third phase of the implementation of the Agreement.

The Ambassador of the Netherlands raised an important point about the disarming of illegal armed groups and about the fact that there have to be conditions under which they will be able to lay down their arms and return to their homes. I think this is very correct. I think that the Lusaka Agreement does indeed envisage a two-way process by which there would be disarmament and by which the countries of origin would create an environment in which those soldiers would be able to be repatriated and reintegrated into their homelands. I think it is important to look at it as a two-way process and an important part of the Lusaka Agreement aimed at resolving one dimension of the conflict.

With respect to the dialogue, it is really encouraging to hear pledges of support for the Facilitator, because President Masire is going to need a great deal of support — political, moral and financial. It will not be an easy process. Even trying to locate a venue for the dialogue will not be easy. He will need a great deal of support to identify all the necessary participants and the venue and to start the process. But it is, in our view, fundamental to a lasting peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Lasting peace in that country cannot be achieved if the political situation is not resolved.

Everything I have heard is very encouraging. Let me say a few words about the conference that several people have mentioned — a peace conference on the Great Lakes region. I think that this would be an important step, but I would sound a note of caution as to its timing. If the timing is wrong, we may not get the desired results. We must time it in such a way as to get free-flowing and constructive discussions. It is an important conference, it should take place, but the timing will be critical.

I would also like to stress the comments made by the representative of the United Kingdom regarding some kind of group that would ensure that there is real follow-up and planning as well as deal with the issues of when to bring people, what to do and what other issues should be raised. I think that this is an excellent suggestion. I am not very familiar with how it would work, but I think that if it can work it would be excellent and should be considered seriously.

The President: I thank the Foreign Minister of South Africa for coming back today. I think that her point-by-point comments on so much of what has been said are tremendously valuable. We thank her and would ask her to convey our great appreciation to President Mbeki for sending her here as his personal representative and to former President Mandela for making this long trip to report to us.

Mr. Gatilov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We join in the condolences expressed in connection with the crash of a Kenya Airlines airliner. We would also like to welcome our high-level guests from Zambia and South Africa.

Since our delegation has already had the opportunity to present the Russian Federation's approach to the settlement of conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and other aspects of problems on the African continent, and also bearing in mind the late hour, I should like to limit myself here to the following comments of a general nature.

The work done by the Security Council over the past month reflects the degree of concern evinced by the international community over the situation on the African continent. We cannot expect long-term, harmonious development in the world if African States, which constitute almost a third of the members of the international community, continue to find themselves in a situation of political, social and economic upheaval.

The discussions that took place in January on the broad range of problems facing Africa compellingly demonstrate, in our view, the need for joint efforts on the part of African countries themselves, which bear the primary responsibility for resolving the problems of the continent, and on the part of the friends of Africa to break the vicious circle of insufficient development, social and inter-ethnic problems, political and military instability and a breakdown in development programmes. The task of the Security Council is to see to it that these efforts are fully supported by the coordinating role, the authority and the capacity of the United Nations.

We need agreed-upon action on the part of the various bodies and agencies of the United Nations and of regional and subregional organizations so as to establish a system that would both prevent and settle conflicts, and to find a comprehensive solution to the task of post-conflict rehabilitation. This is the only way that the countries of Africa can truly set out on the great path of stable and dynamic development and achieve fully fledged integration into the world economy.

The Russian Federation's approach to issues of cooperation with Africa and in Africa is based on an open, equal and mutually beneficial partnership without

patronizing, ideological stereotyping or national narrow-mindedness. We intend in future to make every effort to contribute to resolving the problems of the African continent. Africa has been, is and will remain the focus of our constant attention.

The President: I thank the representative of the Russian Federation for the kind words he addressed to me.

Mr. Chowdhury (Bangladesh): First of all, let me join others in paying a very special tribute to the extraordinary initiative and leadership provided by the United States during its presidency and by you, Mr. President, in your capacity as President of the Council. I believe we have achieved a lot during this presidency.

My delegation would like to give special thanks for this morning's presentations by President Chiluba, Foreign Minister Dlamini-Zuma and Ambassador Baali, in his capacity as representative of the Chairman of the Organization of African Unity. We also appreciate the very important statement made by Deputy Secretary-General Fréchette.

We believe that the commitment that has been reaffirmed in this Council Chamber time and again during the month of January needs to be followed up. Bangladesh is honoured and proud to be a part of that commitment, and we would like to follow up on the words that we have spoken here.

The Security Council is moving ahead well, I believe, with regard to issues related to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sierra Leone, but, as has been mentioned by a number of delegations, we need to also act on the other pending issues relating to Africa that are before the Council.

We would like to place particular emphasis on the follow-up to the meeting we had on 10 January on HIV/AIDS. I thank you, Mr. President, for circulating to us the two draft letters that you will be sending to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council. I believe that those contain very useful information, including the proposal for the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, as proposed by the Ambassador of Ukraine, joined by other colleagues.

We believe that the follow-up on HIV/AIDS and the letter to the President of the Economic and Social Council provide sufficient basis for us to perhaps convene a joint meeting of the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council. I think this is a long-pending idea that has been raised again and again. I believe HIV/AIDS in Africa is an issue that can provide us with that opportunity.

We would also like to support the appeal that you have made, Mr. President, with regard to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for at least a symbolic contribution by all the Council members for the Joint Military Commission and the facilitator's office. We would very much support this. We propose that to take that matter up formally with our Governments, perhaps a letter from you to all of us will facilitate our getting these contributions out of the government process.

Finally, we have heard again and again this morning in the Council the words "follow-up" — effective, specific follow-up. I think Ambassador Hamer of the Netherlands articulated that in a very effective way. We strongly support this, and we believe we should have a time-bound, specific follow-up. I would request both your successor as President and all of us who will be succeeding each other to put Africa on the agenda in each of the months to come, so that the January "month of Africa" will be remembered as the initiator of the "months of Africa".

The President: I am gratified by your comments, and particularly your support of the suggestion that every member of the Security Council make at least a symbolic contribution to support the facilitator and the Joint Military Commission, and I note that you, Sir, will be the President of the Security Council in March.

Miss Durrant (Jamaica): First of all, I want to associate my delegation with the condolences expressed by the Foreign Minister of Namibia and President of the General Assembly to the families of the victims of the Kenyan aircraft crash.

We also wish to join in thanking the President of Zambia and the Foreign Ministers of South Africa and Namibia for having addressed the Council this morning, and also the Permanent Representative of Algeria in his capacity as representive of the chairmanship of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). They have provided a framework for action by the Council on African issues under our purview. While we may not have covered all the issues, we all agree that this month's focus on Africa has been historic. We therefore wish to commend the United States presidency for its initiative.

We all agree that we have been sensitized to the varying needs of Africa, but this month has also brought to the fore issues that previously received piecemeal treatment. Now we have been forewarned, and therefore forearmed, to act decisively and swiftly. We have discussed at length various conflict situations, particularly the intra-State conflicts in the Great Lakes region, which have implications for international peace and security, and the linkages that can be associated with the AIDS pandemic and the flow of refugees and internally displaced persons in Africa.

The Security Council must move from words of sympathy to action. The international community, particularly Africa, is waiting to see our lofty pledges fulfilled. My delegation was heartened by the renewed attention on the conflicts in Angola, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The participation in our debates of so many heads of State, Ministers of Government and the Secretary-General of the OAU helped stress the gravity of the situation, as well as the fervent desire in all of the countries involved to bring an end to the conflicts.

The facilitators of the Arusha and Lusaka processes, former Presidents Mandela and Masire, and the leaders of the countries concerned must be able to count on the moral and financial support of the international community. The Council also needs to act speedily on the expansion of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the eventual deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping force.

There are some common threads in our debates on Africa to which my delegation wishes to draw attention. One of the most compelling messages that has emerged is the inextricable link between peace, sustainable economic growth and sustainable development. We heard the Foreign Minister of South Africa emphasize this relationship. My delegation firmly believes that the root causes of conflict often lie in socio-economic conditions that are the natural breeding grounds for conflict.

The question for the Council is how to prevent such conflicts in the first place and how to assist in curbing the cycle of violence. The signing of peace agreements can be but a first step towards peace. We need to move beyond this stage to ensure that effective measures are in place to provide a smooth transition from a culture of war to a culture of peace. The international community must, as a first step, stop the flow of illegal arms to conflict situations and stop the plundering of Africa's natural resources to purchase these arms. Without buyers there can be no sellers. The links exposed by Ambassador Fowler in his capacity as Chairman of the sanctions Committee on Angola have pointed us in the right direction.

Another common thread in all our discussions this month has been the plight of civilians, particularly children, as victims of war. We have all recited the refrain that "children are our future". Yet in many parts of Africa, we run the risk of losing an entire generation. The high incidence of children among refugees and internally displaced persons as victims and orphans of the AIDS pandemic, of landmines and of malnutrition, the use of children as child soldiers and forced labour — all of these have exposed a generation of children to untold suffering and have robbed them of their innocence and childhood. We must restore peace to the war-torn communities, so that the children of the future can be provided with an environment conducive to their mental, moral, physical, social and economic development.

It is important for the Council to work closely with the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. Again, Mr. President, in this connection we wish to thank you for the letters that have been presented for our consideration, as it is only by addressing the problems in a holistic manner that there will be any lasting solutions.

Various recommendations for action have been presented by the African leaders, by the United Nations Secretary-General, by the Secretary-General of the OAU, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the head of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and by Council members, among others. Implementation of these recommendations will require the further commitment of human and financial resources. I want to thank Sir Jeremy Greenstock for his proposal for an ad hoc working group of the Council on Africa, and for having set the stage during his presidency last December for our focus on Africa this month.

The actions that we take in the future will signal our seriousness, not only in speaking on African issues, but also in taking concrete actions in support of peace, security and development on the continent.

The President: I have a statement to make in my national capacity. Mr. Gurirab, would you like to precede my national statement by making a comment, or would you like me to go first? Please take your choice; I will be bound by your desire.

Mr. Gurirab (Namibia): You will have the last word, Mr. President, so I will go before you.

I am not going to repeat what I have already said on two occasions, except to join others in stressing that our clarion call is for follow-up and, in particular, for speed in the deployment of United Nations military observers, to be followed by the deployment of the United Nations peacekeeping force itself under a Chapter VII mandate.

Secondly, there is a need for a clear and categorical definition of the relationship between the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Joint Military Commission (JMC) as regards the command and control structure. Thirdly, arms supplies and sanctions-busting must be stopped by all necessary means. Ambassador's Fowler's work is pioneering in this regard, and we should all support him.

I am looking forward to reflecting on the letters that are on their way to my office in respect of, among other issues, the proposed special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS. I welcome the idea of setting up a Security Council expert group to follow up on the important issues discussed and decisions taken here. However, I would like to remind the Council that in furtherance with the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict in Africa (S/1998/318), the General Assembly set up a working group to deal with the implementation of the recommendations of the Secretary-General.

I would only appeal for all efforts to be made for greater coordination involving the Security Council, the General Assembly — I should have listed the General Assembly first — and the Economic and Social Council. We are really dealing with interrelated, if not similar, issues. While I welcome the need for greater coordination and consultation between the Security Council and the Organization of African Unity, we must begin at home. That means strengthening cooperation and regular consultations involving the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council.

We are all agreed on support for the JMC and the facilitation.

The President: I thank the Foreign Minister of Namibia for participating all morning long, for his friendship and for his support. I will use the remaining hours of the American presidency — ten and a half, to be precise — to urge in writing every member of the Security Council to offer at least symbolic support of the Joint Military Commission and the facilitation, as Mr. Chowdhury proposed, and to follow up on it.

I shall now make a statement, as briefly as possible, in my national capacity. I thank the President of the General Assembly, President Chiluba, Foreign Minister Dlamini-Zuma, the representative of the Organization of African Unity and Louise Fréchette, who is representing both the Secretary-General and herself, for all of their remarks. I was profoundly moved by the generosity of their comments today and by the unstinting support which the American delegation has felt from all of the other 14 members of the Security Council over the past month.

As Ambassador Hamer said, many attempts were made to introduce innovations this month, and the good news is that the 14 other members of the Security Council, without exception, responded positively. I hope that over the next few months the Presidents of the Security Council will continue to test the limits of what is possible here. Our fundamental goal — I am talking at the organizational level — is to maintain, restore or reaffirm the central role of the Security Council in dealing with many of the world's problems today. The best way to do that is to display the flexibility, creativity and transparency that Ambassador Hamer showed. I particularly liked the fact that he referred to the transparency of our efforts.

This is the last statement that I will make before this body as President, and it is my hope that when we look back on January 2000, we will consider it a turning point for Africa, the United Nations and the relationship of the United States with both. Nearly two months ago, during our delegation's 11-day trip to 10 African States, we decided to make January the "month of Africa", and announced this in a speech in Pretoria. What we saw in Africa — the good and the bad, the stories of inspiration and the horrors that keep one up at night, the things the international community is doing and what it must do better — convinced us that these issues could not be properly addressed by a single event.

Building on the excellent efforts of Ambassador Greenstock last month, we decided to try to make a sustained, consistent and energetic effort, and set out to use the 30 days of the presidency — in fact, we had only 21 days because, as a result of the holiday schedule, we were able to begin only three weeks ago today — to set forth a United States policy of sustained engagement towards that great continent of Africa.

We focused on three objectives. First, and most fundamentally, we aimed to focus international attention on African issues. We aimed to put to rest the canard that Africa does not matter, to refute the belief that the international community has one set of rules for Europe or Asia and another for Africa. In fulfilling this objective, I think that so far we can say we have succeeded, although, as everyone has said, we will not have been successful if our efforts end tomorrow or at any time in the future.

Our second goal was to broaden the paradigm of security and to discuss, here in the Security Council — the international community's premier forum for peace and security — issues that have not typically been our central focus: AIDS and refugees. Because of their direct effect on Africa's stability and security and the common threat to humanity that they pose, we believe strongly that they should be defined henceforth as security threats, and treated as such. The meeting on the threat of HIV/AIDS was historic, as we all agree. All of us understand that, if left unchecked, AIDS will kill more Africans than all of the conflicts in the region combined — as it did last year.

I think that we reached a consensus that AIDS is, indeed, a threat to security. I am delighted with the fact that we are moving towards additional meetings on this subject, the details of which can be worked out. The President of the General Assembly has just given his view of this, and I know that my successors as President of the Security Council will wish to address this in consultation with the Ambassador of Indonesia, who is the current President of the Economic and Social Council, and with other officials.

We must match our words with deeds. For my country's part, the Vice-President's announcement that we will contribute an additional $150 million towards fighting AIDS, while it is far from enough to deal with the problem, will, we hope, be the beginning of a greater involvement. We welcome the activities of other countries and hope that there will be further action in this regard.

With regard to refugees and Mrs. Ogata's important participation here this month, I think that we have to continue to challenge the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Programme (WFP) and ourselves to re-examine our structures so as to deal honestly with the fact that over two thirds of the people in the world who are homeless are classified as something called internally displaced persons — a terrible term for people who are just as much refugees as those who have crossed an international border. We must expand the definition of a refugee and erode, if not erase, the distinction between a refugee and an person who is internally displaced.

This is not just some meaningless bureaucratic distinction. Such definitions have real human consequences, particularly in a place such as Angola, where over 90 per cent of the homeless are so-called internally displaced persons. We cannot let this entire category of innocent victims fall through our bureaucratic cracks. I have already been contacted by the head of the WFP to tell me that I had underestimated the importance of her organization in this field, and that she should have the primary point of pride. I report that fact to the Council for further discussion. My own view is that this should not be a bureaucratic argument between UNHCR and the WFP. UNHCR has the infrastructure and experience. It should get support from others.

I cannot imagine why, in a country like Angola, we would have two organizations dealing with refugees, one — the big one, UNHCR — dealing with the smaller problem, and the other, WFP — an excellent organization, but not historically equipped for this — trying to put Band-Aids on 90 per cent of the problem. I have invited Mrs. Bertini to join us here in New York to talk to all of us about her strong views on this issue, because it is an excellent organization and I commend it. But I want to bring to the Council's attention that I have already received a bit of feedback from my own comments about UNHCR.

The third objective of our month was unquestionably the most urgent: to help Africa's leaders solve the festering conflicts that are ripping the continent apart. For the United Nations and the United States to meet our objectives in Africa, African societies need peace. We must accept a basic fact: Africa's political, economic and social transformation flows from its peoples' ability to maintain peace, stability and a just order. All that we hope for for Africa will not be possible if the conflicts in Angola, Burundi, the Congo, Ethiopia/Eritrea, the Sudan, Sierra Leone and elsewhere are allowed to continue.

I want to point out again that those conflicts we did not discuss this month were left off the agenda not because we wanted to leave them off, but because those people dealing directly with them asked that they be delayed to later in the calendar year. I am thinking specifically of Ethiopia/Eritrea.

In Angola and Burundi, we face humanitarian crises of epic proportions. We heard and viewed, thanks to Ambassador Fowler's video, evidence that the United Nations sanctions on Angola are being flouted. The Security Council has established its agenda for Angola: strengthening sanctions, putting a spotlight on UNITA's culpability in evading them; supporting operations for a proposed United Nations office there; and, of course, continuing to address the horrific state of refugees there.

In the Burundi meeting, we heard from President Mandela as he shared with us his vision for strengthening the Arusha peace process. With resolution 1286 (2000), adopted 10 days ago, the Security Council took an important step in supporting President Mandela.

On the Democratic Republic of the Congo, our meetings last week with seven Presidents culminated in a clear recognition that the time has come for our next steps. With the parties' recommitment to Lusaka, which we heard again this morning, and their return next week to the region to follow up, we can move forward. With its presidential statement, the Security Council affirmed the international community's commitment to supporting them. As President of the Security Council, we have begun consultations with the Congress and with all Council members on the deployment of United Nations peacekeepers. As long as the parties to the conflict prove they are prepared to live up to the commitments they made for peace, the international community embodied in this great Organization has a responsibility to support them.

Peace in the Congo, like everything else we have discussed this month, requires a sustained and steadfast commitment. The coming days will answer the question asked by everybody this morning about follow-up: Can the United Nations be more than what its critics often call a "talk shop"?

I should like to conclude by mentioning another critical aspect of this month's activities: the revitalization of the American role in the United Nations. While not directly related to Africa, it is absolutely essential to everything we have discussed today.

As all here know, for the past few years that role has been deeply questioned. After the setbacks earlier in the past decade, especially in Somalia, Bosnia and Rwanda, many Americans lost confidence in the United Nations. Some even speculated as to whether the United States should remain a part of it. During the last presidential campaign, members will recall that the Republican candidate used the United Nations and the Secretary-General at that time as targets for much of his campaign rhetoric.

What a difference four years make. To be sure, many concerns about the United Nations remain, but Senator Helms, in his unprecedented visit to New York and in his speech in this Chamber on 20 January, made his view absolutely clear. As promised, he gave a frank and open assessment and I congratulate all Council members for the skillful and brilliant way they addressed his points, welcoming him to the Chamber with the graciousness which is the hallmark of the United Nations diplomatic world, but also one by one taking issue with him on substance. I know from my private talks with him that it made a significant impression on him and his colleagues.

The view he expressed, however, is just one view. As Senator Biden, Senator Warner, Senator Grams, Senator Feingold and other visitors from the Congress made clear — as Secretary Albright and I both pointed out in the last week — most Americans see our role in the world and our relationship to this Organization in a different light. I would mention that President Clinton mentioned the United Nations, Africa and AIDS in Africa several times in his State of the Union message last Thursday.

But the very fact that Senator Helms, Senator Biden and his colleagues spent two days here, as well as the fact that Vice-President Gore and Secretary Albright presided over meetings of the Security Council, should speak volumes to all of us about the Administration's commitment, about our nation's commitment to the United Nations and a recognition — or perhaps, in some cases, a re-recognition — of what it can accomplish.

What the United Nations is doing and what it needs to do in Africa illustrates that it is truly, as President Clinton has said, an indispensable Organization, despite its flaws. We do not wish to turn a blind eye to the flaws; in fact, one of the most valuable things we can do is address those flaws, but always within the context of its indispensability to peace, in Africa and around the world.

So, at the close of our month as Security Council President, I am happy to say that, at the United Nations, America is back. The United States begins the twenty-first century with renewed hopes for the United Nations

and renewed commitment to making this vital Organization work better.

It will be my great pleasure to turn the gavel over to our friend from Argentina in a few hours. Meanwhile, once again, I thank the members of the Security Council deeply — on behalf of all the United States delegation, including Secretary Albright, Vice-President Gore and, by extension, President Clinton, who is well aware of what we have been doing here this month — for their very gracious support.

The meeting rose at 1.40 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.4097

Security Council
Fifty-fifth Year

Provisional

4097th Meeting
Thursday, 3 February 2000, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Listre	(Argentina)
Members:	Bangladesh	Mr. Chowdhury
	Canada	Mr. Fowler
	China	Mr. Shen Guofang
	France	Mr. Dejammet
	Jamaica	Miss Durrant
	Malaysia	Mr. Hasmy
	Mali	Mr. Ouane
	Namibia	Mr. Andjaba
	Netherlands	Mr. van Walsum
	Russian Federation	Mr. Granovsky
	Tunisia	Mr. Ben Mustapha
	Ukraine	Mr. Yel'chenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Jeremy Greenstock
	United States of America	Mr. Holbrooke

Agenda

The situation in East Timor

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) (S/2000/53)

00-27736 (E)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Expression of thanks to the retiring President

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): As this is the first meeting of the Security Council for the month of February, I should like to take the opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Council, to Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations, for his excellent service as President of the Security Council for the month of January 2000. I am sure I speak for all members of the Council in expressing deep appreciation to Ambassador Holbrooke for the diplomatic skills, energy, talent and dedication with which he conducted the Council's business last month.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in East Timor

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) (S/2000/53)

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, and in the absence of objection, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello, Special Representative and Transitional Administrator in East Timor.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I invite Mr. Vieira de Mello to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET), document S/2000/53.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello, Special Representative and Transitional Administrator in East Timor, regarding the situation in East Timor.

I welcome Mr. Vieira de Mello, and I now give him the floor.

Mr. Vieira de Mello (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to start by congratulating you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency. I am honoured to have been invited to brief the Council under your presidency on the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) for the first time and to introduce the Secretary-General's first report.

(spoke in English)

Members of the Council have before them the report of the Secretary-General on the first three months of the Transitional Administration in East Timor, and I will ask members to bear with me if my presentation is slightly longer than expected, since, as members can imagine, we have attempted to cover a wide variety of problems and challenges in these first three months of the Transitional Administration.

I trust the report conveys the situation that the vast majority of East Timorese face every day as they recover from the devastating violence of September last year. In that month, roughly 750,000 persons out of a pre-consultation population of about 880,000 were either internally displaced, if only for brief periods, or fled into West Timor, or were forced across the border into West Timor. In addition to losing their houses, an overwhelming number of East Timorese lost their possessions and their life's savings. In the aftermath of this devastation, they lacked food security, basic health care, potable water and sanitation. Virtually all public buildings were burned, damaged or ransacked; the services they had provided collapsed overnight. The telecommunications system was destroyed, along with many local radio networks. Electrical supply was disrupted and generators were damaged. Furthermore, the main airport in Dili became inoperative, and cross-border trade effectively ceased, adding to the Territory's isolation.

The social and economic consequences of this upheaval are massive. East Timor was a poor territory before September 1999; it has been in a calamitous state since then. Roughly 80 per cent of the population is without means of support; yet prices of basic commodities are about double those of the pre-

consultation period. The allocation system is slowly resurrecting, albeit on an informal voluntary basis. There exist no local mechanisms for maintaining law and order.

After so many years of turmoil and successive legal regimes, disputed claims on property are widespread. Not surprisingly, there have been growing signs of rising criminality and disaffection over the past months. While this phenomenon stems in good measure from widespread unemployment and youth left idle, there are also indications that local rivalries and long-standing conflicts may be re-emerging in the form of community and gang violence. In the face of these problems, the people of East Timor are justifiably impatient to see improvements in their lives. Towards that end, UNTAET has set itself a number of key objectives for its first six months. The extent to which it achieves these goals will be the measure of its success in meeting the high expectations of the people, repairing and redressing the damage of East Timor's recent past and fulfilling the ambitious and, in fact, unprecedented mandate which this Council has given it.

First of all, UNTAET must ensure the physical security of all East Timorese and their access to a fair judicial system within an environment of law and order. UNTAET must also support the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the repatriation of all those refugees who wish to return from West Timor and elsewhere, and sufficient resources must be made available to meet their shelter, health and sanitation needs during their integration. Meanwhile, basic administrative structures must be established at both the central and district levels, a civil service must be created and East Timorese at all levels must be empowered to participate fully in the decisions made and implemented through these structures. Furthermore, the country must be moved out of the phase of humanitarian relief, and basic public services must be brought fully on line. Reconstruction must start; I will come back to that in a moment.

Health services and the education system must be put back on an even keel, and vital infrastructure, such as electricity and water-supply systems, must be fully restored. To sustain these efforts in the medium and long term, the economy as a whole must be put on a solid footing with basic regulatory fiscal and monetary structures in place. A series of regulations to allow for the resumption of normal economic and agricultural activity have been or will be passed in the near future, and a revenue base to sustain the Government must begin to be collected. Finally, during its first six months UNTAET will have to collect, catalogue and guard evidence on the human rights abuses perpetrated in East Timor.

UNTAET has taken a number of steps towards meeting these objectives, but the challenges remain huge. As the members of the Council are aware, in the border areas, and particularly in the enclave of Oecussi, militias continue to pose a threat. Eight cross-border incursions by militias into Oecussi have taken place in the past few weeks. I wish to reaffirm to the Council that the UNTAET peacekeeping force will deter or repel any such threats with the same firmness and determination as has the multinational force known as the International Force in East Timor (INTERFET) up to now.

At the district level in East Timor, law and order is of increasing concern, as public security is being undermined by a rising crime rate which reflects — I repeat — the widespread unemployment and the disruptions to the education and social systems that have left too many youth idle. In Baucau, for instance, which I visited earlier this month, gang battles involving hundreds of youths took place on an almost daily basis over the Christmas and New Year period.

At present, only 480 United Nations civilian police are in East Timor, far below their full authorized strength of 1,610. The ability of the international civilian police to penetrate the society, understand the society and access local information is obviously very limited. So UNTAET is implementing measures to integrate local participation in police activities. As an immediate measure, over the next few weeks UNTAET will institute a police assistance programme, in which former East Timorese police officers of known quality are to serve as auxiliaries of our civilian police. This programme will be phased out once enough fully fledged East Timorese police are trained at the new police academy scheduled to begin operations in March. We have also entered discussions with the former Armed Forces for the National Liberation of East Timor (Falintil), which has indicated that it would be willing, unarmed, to lend its standing in the local communities to efforts to develop crime-prevention strategies through community education and provide intercession to reduce community tensions.

It is also critical that the judiciary become fully functional. While 10 East Timorese judges and prosecutors have been appointed and are working, these judges have little practical experience on the bench and need further mentoring and support. Thirty more candidates for positions as judges, prosecutors and

defence lawyers are currently being trained, but the pool of candidates remains, as the Council can see, very limited. Courts lack even basic support staff, equipment and furniture. The prisons are in worse shape still, and with the INTERFET detention centre at full capacity, prisons in both Dili and Baucau, which UNTAET is to reopen soon after some repair work is completed, must be gradually refurbished and staffed with qualified wardens, which we do not have, if UNTAET is to be able to arrest and hold criminals.

With regard to refugee repatriation, the Council has already been informed that the rate of return of refugees from West Timor has slowed down over the last two months as the rainy season has set in. The reasons for this are complex, stemming in part from militia intimidation in some of the camps and widespread misinformation, disinformation or lack of adequate information regarding the true situation in East Timor. But this slow rate of return, I believe, is also attributable to other factors, ranging from the lack of basic services and the destruction of infrastructure inside East Timor to genuine concern about the safety of returnees. Many people whom I spoke to last week in Atambua and Kupang, especially among those who were previously employed by the Indonesian administration — civil servants, soldiers and policemen — are hesitating until they are provided with a clear indication of their future benefits, if any, including pensions, as well as of their chances of joining the new East Timorese civil service.

Once the reconstruction and development projects supported by the World Bank trust fund begin to come on line and to have a tangible impact in East Timor, these programmes will clearly also serve to support the return of refugees. Until then, however, there is an immediate need for funding through the United Nations and humanitarian trust funds for rapid start-up projects to provide employment and allow returnees and residents alike to set about rebuilding their communities immediately. This, I must say, is the greatest frustration of the East Timorese population at present and our greatest challenge.

Since UNTAET's establishment, very good progress has been made in developing consultative mechanisms to ensure the full participation of East Timorese in decision-making processes, particularly at the central level. The National Consultative Council, which I established in late November of last year and which is composed, as the Council is aware, of seven members representing the National Council of Timorese Resistance (CNRT), the broad coalition that campaigned for independence, three representatives of pro-autonomy political groups, one member representing the Catholic Church and four UNTAET members, including myself, who chair it, has met on five occasions since early December and reached consensus on eight fundamental regulations. It reviewed and gave its approval to development and reconstruction priorities; it established an independent Public Service Commission responsible for developing the new civil service; and it discussed a full range of issues facing the East Timorese population and UNTAET at present. With its emphasis on consensus, the National Consultative Council reflects the basic philosophy which guides UNTAET's work in East Timor, namely, that our mission is to work not so much as an interim Administration appointed to govern, but as co-architect, along with the East Timorese, of a national administration that will serve the country long after UNTAET's departure.

The effective consultation established at the national level is also being pursued at the district level. This emphasis on consultation extends also to other mechanisms. For example, the Transitional Judicial Service Commission, composed of East Timorese and UNTAET commissioners and chaired by Baucau Bishop Basilio do Nascimento, has held town hall-type meetings to discuss justice issues. I and other UNTAET staff have held many similar open information meetings and dialogues with East Timorese across the country.

From the date of my arrival in mid-November, I have established a pattern of daily consultations with Mr. Xanana Gusmão and other members of the CNRT on all important matters outside the context of the Consultative Council. We have also developed regular dialogue with pro-autonomy groups, either in the margins of the Consultative Council meetings or through visits to West Timor and Jakarta, such as the one I paid last week.

Results have been mixed in the dialogue with this latter group, with some pro-autonomy groups or militia displaying continued hostility towards the United Nations, as I experienced myself in Kupang, while others are not only open to dialogue, but keenly interested in strengthening communications and obtaining reassurances that could lead to their decision to return and participate fully, democratically and peacefully in the future political life of the country. Xanana Gusmão has gone out of his way in promoting reconciliation. Additional combined efforts, which I began discussing with him over the telephone yesterday, are, however, undoubtedly required.

Relations with Indonesia are key in this and in many other respects. Following the visit of Xanana Gusmão and his delegation to Jakarta in early December 1999, I have myself twice visited Indonesia officially, with very encouraging results in political, economic, humanitarian and security terms. Last week, we agreed with Foreign Minister Alwi Shihab and other senior Indonesian officials to launch comprehensive bilateral negotiations on a host of issues involving complex assets and liability claims. An agenda and timetable should be discussed and approved before President Abdurrahman Wahid visits Dili on 24 February, in exactly three weeks. I must say that he and I found the attitude in Kupang and in Jakarta, as well as in Denpasa, where the regional military commander resides, very constructive.

Through the Consultative Council and its sectoral committees, UNTAET has set about building the regulatory framework necessary to underpin the administration of East Timor in all areas, including the economy, local governance, justice, and public and civil services. In addition to the first regulation, which defined the legal framework applicable in East Timor during the transitional period, and a number of other decisions that were of a more administrative nature, regulations have now been enacted to establish the Judicial Service Commission that I mentioned earlier; a central fiscal authority, which is the embryo of the future ministry of finance; the central payments office, which is a proto-central bank; and the Public Service Commission.

Regulations concerning the registration of commercial enterprises, the use of currency, the new legal tender and the licensing of foreign exchange bureaus have also been passed. In the coming weeks, regulations on a range of pressing issues will be tabled, including the organization of ports, the licensing and supervision of banks, and Government procurement procedures. The International Monetary Fund has provided us with invaluable support and advice from the very early stages of this operation. Regulations to establish a border control service, a prosecutorial service and sub-district-level councils are also being drafted. Also, a regulation to amend the currently applicable criminal procedure code will be necessary. Each regulation enacted since the establishment of the Consultative Council was drafted by technical committees in which East Timorese were in the lead, with UNTAET providing advice and support, and all have been adopted by full consensus.

The effort to re-establish basic services and infrastructure and thereby move from the humanitarian phase to a more sustainable administration of East Timor will be extremely difficult in the short term. Members of the Council should be aware of my main concern at present, as I indicated earlier, that infrastructural and development projects provided for in the six-month reconstruction plan and that will be funded under the World Bank's labour-intensive trust fund will not, in all likelihood, actually be implemented for some months. I am extremely grateful to the World Bank for its energetic involvement and for the exceptional partnership that we have established in East Timor.

The Tokyo donor conference in December, as members know, was most successful, with $522 million being pledged for a variety of activities in the next three years. I would repeat that the first six-month plan for reconstruction was formulated and submitted to a donor meeting in Washington last week. Notwithstanding the Bank's real sense of urgency, UNTAET faces a gap in time which may well result in the perception among East Timorese during the next few months that little is being done to repair infrastructure, save for the United Nations own facilities, for which assessed contributions will be available. Therefore, quick advance disbursements against the World Bank fund, flexibility in the use of assessed resources, and generous bilateral contributions will be essential to prevent social unrest until the World Bank comes in full strength.

As the members of the Council are aware, the International Commission of Inquiry on East Timor, as well as the Indonesian Commission of Inquiry, submitted their reports last Monday. While it remains to be seen what mechanisms might be established to deal with this matter, UNTAET's human rights component has assumed the lead in the coordination of the investigative process in line with the recommendations of both Commissions.

Thus far, investigations into past human rights violations have been carried out by INTERFET, United Nations civilian police and other international actors. It is essential that the information from these sources be consolidated and catalogued. Over 300 bodies have been found, 71 different crime scenes identified and 71 bodies exhumed so far. In Liquica, a mass grave of up to 17 persons has recently been found; likewise, in Oecussi, a grave site of up to 60 bodies has been discovered. Further sites are waiting to be examined. The United Nations civilian police has registered a total of 467 murders alleged by eyewitnesses, which would point to the likelihood that further victims may yet be found.

A human rights centre has been established in Dili, which will serve as the centre for such investigations, evidence collection and cataloguing, and training, as well as to house a small, very basic but essential mortuary facility.

In the coming months, UNTAET will need to meet a number of serious challenges. First among them are the high expectations of the Timorese, who will have displayed tremendous patience regarding the slow pace at which the destruction of last September is being addressed. Also, East Timor has been sheltered from the outside world for the last two decades, and now the influx of foreigners, civilian and military alike, is proving to be a source of some tension and resentment. I am also concerned that our presence should not have an adverse impact, as I saw in other, similar operations in the past, on East Timorese society and culture, and for that reason I have issued a code of conduct drawn up in consultation with our East Timorese colleagues for all UNTAET staff to follow.

Establishing a new East Timorese administration calls for the urgent creation of a civil service. As recently agreed in the National Consultative Council, we have this very week begun paying stipends to those thousands of individuals who have been engaged in voluntary civil- and public-service functions. This will be a provisional measure pending the recruitment of new civil servants against a new salary scale to be decided by the Public Service Commission over the next three months. In 2000 the civil service will employ only some 7,000 or so persons, and, clearly, the problem of unemployment will have to be addressed by other means, such as the rapid implementation of rehabilitation and reconstruction projects.

I am confident that we can continue to enjoy the very strong support that the Council has thus far provided UNTAET, and that the Council will continue to be our greatest asset. In particular, East Timor will rely on the Council's assistance to ensure that the recent harassment along East Timor's borders will not be allowed to continue and that the pro-autonomy groups and political militias in West Timor accept the outcome of the popular consultation and opt for a moderate, democratic course of action. The remaining extremist groups and militias in West Timor should be disarmed and disbanded once and for all; I have discussed this once again with the Governor of West Timor, with General Kiki Syahnakri, regional military commander, and with the Government in Jakarta last week, and have been given assurances that this will happen.

I also wish to urge members of the Council to use their influence to ensure that the Transitional Administration has access as early as possible to the funds necessary to carry out its mandate. This is especially essential for all the many costs related to the actual governance functions with which the Council has entrusted us in what is a devastated country.

Let me briefly report on the military situation. A carefully planned, progressive takeover of the International Force in East Timor (INTERFET) by the UNTAET military component began on 1 February with the transfer of the entire eastern section to United Nations command. This gradual process will continue in the next three weeks, until full transfer has taken place in the latter part of February.

I wish to pay tribute here to Major General Peter Cosgrove, with whom I have worked very closely indeed since my arrival, and to his officers, men and women of different contingents for INTERFET's remarkable achievements in restoring and maintaining security in East Timor and along its borders.

As the Secretary-General indicates in his report, I shall remain very mindful of the Council's expectation of regular assessments of the necessary United Nations military strength with a view to achieving possible early reductions.

In terms of the political future and the related timetable, it is premature to predict when a process of drafting a constitution should begin. This would lead, as members can imagine, to two other fundamental questions, relating to a regulation on new political parties and to another on elections. Given the urgent problems we now face, both humanitarian and relating to reconstruction, it is too early to politicize the environment and distract ourselves and the East Timorese from the many pressing issues to be faced during this initial emergency phase. I believe, however, that in the second half of 2000 we will start reflecting and perhaps acting on these issues — constitution, political parties and elections — and on a related calendar leading to independence.

In conclusion, I would like to summarize what I believe is at stake for the United Nations in East Timor. As a remote country of some 800,000 people, with relatively few resources, East Timor is, in the final analysis, of little strategic importance. Nevertheless, the people of East Timor have fought and suffered for

decades to achieve their independence, and until very recently they did so in the face of general indifference — with the exception of this Organization and the Security Council.

Thus, I believe, the United Nations owes East Timor a debt. Equally, East Timor represents an unprecedented challenge for the United Nations. We are called upon to administer and govern a territory which is starting from nearly nothing in terms of resources. At a time of flagging confidence and growing cynicism with respect to the multilateral system, East Timor provides us with the opportunity to prove — to the East Timorese, who for so long were without support, as well as to ourselves — that UNTAET can be a paradigm of nation-building in future latest-generation United Nations operations approved by the Council.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank Mr. Vieira de Mello for the kind words he addressed to me.

Mr. Eldon (United Kingdom): At the outset, I congratulate you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the office you now hold. It is good to see you in the hot seat so soon after your arrival in New York, and my delegation pledges to work with you, not only during this coming month but for the remainder of Argentina's term on the Security Council. It is very good to have you here.

It is good also to see my very good friend Sergio Vieira de Mello back in New York and to hear such an impressive briefing. The systematic and objective-based approach that he has just outlined suggests that East Timor does indeed stand a very good chance of becoming the paradigm of nation-building that he mentioned. Long may that systematic, accurate and targeted management of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) continue.

We do not have much time this morning, and I really want in my statement to concentrate only on two or three points. They are, first, our concern — and here we agree with what Sergio Vieira de Mello has said — that money is not being made available on the ground fast enough to allow reconstruction and other elements of the UNTAET package to get under way. The second is the security situation, on which there is mostly good news, but where there are some slightly worrying elements as well. And the third is our concern over the slow pace of civilian police deployment.

On security, I think the Council owes a debt to both the International Force in East Timor INTERFET and UNTAET for restoring stability in the security situation. We welcome the progress that has been made in the smooth transition from INTERFET to UNTAET, and we hope that this will be continued so that it finishes on schedule, by the end of February. But I was slightly concerned to hear Mr. Vieira de Mello's remarks about militia activity around Oecussi. Clearly, this is something that both INTERFET in its remaining time and UNTAET will need to watch very closely. If the Special Representative of the Secretary-General can throw any further light on UNTAET's assessment of militia influence, activity and ability to mount continued disruption, we would be very interested to hear that assessment. Clearly, the sooner that those elements of the military desist from their activities and recognize that they, like everyone else, must work towards the common objective of an independent and peaceful East Timor, the better.

Secondly, the work that the UNTAET civilian police component have done so far is encouraging, but we are concerned about the rise in crime noted in the Secretary-General's report. Clearly there are a number of elements to this. I was particularly impressed by the fairly shocking statistic that Mr. Vieira de Mello quoted at the beginning of his statement: that 80 per cent of the population is now without means of support, whereas prices are twice as high as they were before the consultation.

This requires a complex strategy. Clearly crime is likely to come down only when ordinary people in East Timor have a means of pursuing their livelihoods. But also it requires an effective civil policing operation to ensure that the gains already made in terms of security and civil society are not lost.

The proposed start of civilian police training in March is therefore very welcome. Clearly, it is right that this should be targeted towards effective local law enforcement, and, clearly, it is good that UNTAET is now taking initiatives to bring more local police officers back on line.

I would only add, though, that it is important that when those local police come on line they operate in accordance with internationally accepted standards. I hope that it will be possible for UNTAET to blend into the deployment of these people a suitable training element

so that the police force can start off completely on the right foot.

The progress on the establishment of the public administration is welcome, too. But here again I want to underline our concern at the delays in disbursement of much-needed funds for reconstruction and other projects. It is very important that the World Bank trust fund come on line quickly so that these programmes can begin.

I hope that the Special Representative and the Secretariat will not hesitate to come forward if they feel that there is anything that members of the Council or the Council itself can do to speed that process along. Clearly, the sort of vacuum that Mr. Vieira de Mello has outlined is highly undesirable, and we must try to ensure that UNTAET's activities show a secular increase and get off to a very good start, not least — as the Special Representative has outlined — so that the United Nations can maintain the confidence of the Timorese people.

Finally, I should touch on the issue of human rights, which Mr. Vieira de Mello has mentioned as one of UNTAET's key objectives, particularly in the context of investigating and safeguarding evidence of serious crimes during the unhappy period last year after the consultation. We welcome the publication of both the International Commission of Inquiry report and the report of the Indonesian Commission of Inquiry into Human Rights Violations in East Timor, known as KPP-HAM. Both reports illustrate graphically the seriousness of what happened in East Timor last year.

The United Kingdom considers it vital that those responsible for the serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law in East Timor be brought to justice. At his meeting with Prime Minister Blair two days ago, President Wahid of Indonesia made it clear that Indonesia wants to see justice done. We very much welcome this commitment. All cases should be pursued vigorously, even if they lead to the top.

The United Kingdom has offered support to that process. While we do not close off any options, we look forward to a credible legal process in Indonesia.

It is important that the Security Council respond to the Secretary-General's letter of 31 January, covering the report of the International Commission of Inquiry. I am sure that you, Mr. President, will schedule informal consultations in due course on this matter.

The President *(spoke in Spanish)*: I thank the representative of the United Kingdom for his kind words addressed to me.

I would like to remind the members of the Council that, as we all know, Mr. Vieira de Mello has appointments around noon. Therefore, I ask the representatives to be as concise as possible.

Mr. Dejammet (France) *(spoke in French)*: I would like to associate myself with the words of welcome that have been extended to you, Sir, and to assure you that you will have our full support during the month of your presidency.

I would also like to thank once again Mr. Vieira de Mello for the quality and clarity of his statement. The written report submitted to us is extremely detailed and has allowed us to get a clear and encouragingly positive picture of the work of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET). At the same time, we are certainly pleased that the person who is responsible for this report and in charge of the United Nations operation on the ground is here with us today to confirm the indications given in the report and perhaps to respond to our questions.

In fact, the situation is quite simple since a great deal depends on our faith in Sergio Vieira de Mello. We have complete confidence in him because we recognize that he has the energy, the capacity and the dynamism to successfully carry out his tasks, which he aptly described as a mission of cooperative architecture. It is not simply a question of filling a void or of temporarily administrating East Timor; the mission is to work on the ground with the East Timorese to create a new architecture. Once again, I think that Sergio Vieira de Mello is doing this work with all the efficacy for which he is known.

Therefore, I have only a few questions to ask Mr. Vieira de Mello, since he has done all that was proposed. He is meeting with all the Timorese parties as well as visiting Indonesia, and he is doing his utmost to achieve what should be our common objective: the national reconciliation that will allow all those who have left to return. Furthermore, in this context I will limit myself to a simple little question.

We make reference to those who are in West Timor, we refer to those who are in the refugee camps, we refer to the pace with which they are returning. However,

since the beginning of this long affair, many Timorese have gone to other countries, much further away. Does Mr. Vieira de Mello have an idea how many Timorese have emigrated far from Timor, how many are not in West Timor or in Indonesia, but rather in other countries, and yet hold out hope of returning to their country?

As Mr. Vieira de Mello has noted regarding the possibilities for re-integration and for integration into the civil service — the foundation of all this depends on his efforts to promote national reconciliation, and I have no doubt that he and his team have already made progress, since the National Consultative Council has been created. But I believe he has stressed the two keys for absolute success: One is the question of human rights and justice, and the other is whether economic conditions will give all the Timorese people some assurance that they can work and live harmoniously in a reconstructed country.

As regards the first element, to be brief, I endorse everything that Ambassador Eldon said. We recognize and appreciate that this duty of remembering what has happened and of seeing that justice is, fortunately, understood not only in Timor but also in Indonesia itself, as the report of the Indonesian authorities' inquiry indicates. This gives us real reason to hope. We want impunity to be rooted out and justice to be done, and we have noted with interest the voluntary effort that the Indonesian authorities are making in this regard. I believe that this gives us grounds for hope that we will be able to discharge that duty to ensure that justice is done — justice which is hoped for by the Timorese and desired by the international community — in a way that conforms with the aspirations of both the Indonesian authorities and the population of Timor. This, it seems to me, is a satisfactory recent development. As Ambassador Eldon said, we shall be discussing it again in our consultations, under the authority of the President of the Security Council.

The second condition, the second key, is the economic situation. We must be able to provide some immediate prospects for acceptable living conditions for the inhabitants of Timor. In this context, we must acknowledge that there has been a succession of recent incidents, which Mr. Vieira de Mello has witnessed — indeed, he almost fell victim to them; I think he has had some difficult experiences — and which are the result of the deterioration of the economic situation. There will be no genuine return or reconciliation if those who are in camps are not clearly assured not only that they can be reintegrated, but that they can return to normal living conditions.

The Special Representative referred to and welcomed the volume of contributions promised during the contributors' meetings. But he also emphasized that there have been delays in the disbursement or payment of funds, and he raised the issue of the need to be able to rely on United Nations contributions. If he has the time, I would like Mr. Vieira de Mello to be a little more specific and tell us what needs to be done, beyond making simple appeals. In financial terms, how does he see the ways and means for transfers of funds which would allow his administration to function?

In this financial context, everything that could be done to decrease the financial burden on the United Nations force would be useful, as the savings could be channelled or redirected towards the civil administration, and the improvement of general security conditions would perhaps make it possible to reduce the size of the United Nations force itself and enable savings to be made. States could then direct their funding towards his administration.

Those are my questions and comments to Mr. Vieira de Mello. Once again, I would like to thank him for his contribution and to reiterate once again our full confidence in him and in you, Mr. President.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the representative of France for the kind words he addressed to me.

Mr. Chowdhury (Bangladesh): Allow me to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council this month. We look forward to working very closely with you, and we believe that this month is going to be a very active and productive one. I should also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ambassador Holbrooke on his brilliant presidency last month.

My delegation has taken a close look at the comprehensive and, I may add, sombre report of the Secretary-General, in document S/2000/53. This morning we have heard from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Vieira de Mello, who made a very helpful and, I must say, frank presentation to outline the situation in East Timor. We benefited tremendously from it. At the same time, we must say that he and his team are doing wonderfully well under very difficult circumstances. The Secretary-General called for his team to make strenuous efforts during the last three months, and I believe that that is what it is doing. I hope that his efforts will continue to bear fruit in the coming months.

I have a few points to make. Taking into account your advice, Mr. President, that we should be precise, I would like to outline eight points. I am setting aside the humanitarian situation, because that has been appropriately addressed in both the report and Mr. Vieira de Mello's statement. I believe that the United Nations team there is doing well on that count.

My first point relates to public safety and the law and order situation. As has been mentioned by others, we believe that that is a priority which should be addressed. In this context, we urge that the full complement of the civilian police be deployed very soon. Last month we heard that only one fourth of the mandated strength is there. We believe it will be possible to expedite deployment and that that should be a priority.

Secondly, we believe that the return of the refugees is also important. The facilitation by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other United Nations agencies is very important. We would also like to request the Indonesian Government and others involved to facilitate this process.

Thirdly, we believe that capacity-building is a key area. The United Nations should not be seen as calling the shots there. It should build the capacity among the local population so that it can take charge. In that context, we are very happy that the National Consultative Council is working very well, meeting regularly with the people from the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET), who are helping them. We believe that the focus of this capacity-building should be on the area of human development and governance. I think that that is where the work of the United Nations has been fruitful in other countries, and that is what UNTAET should be doing there.

My fourth point relates to the unemployment situation. As the report states, and as Mr. Vieira de Mello pointed out, 80 per cent of the population are without any means of support and 50 per cent are illiterate. Furthermore, as we read in today's *Herald Tribune*, the unemployment situation has resulted in violence. We read that 7,000 East Timorese lined up to apply for 2,000 United Nations jobs and that, finally, in frustration, they resorted to violence and rock throwing. I believe that this, too, is an area that we should address as effectively as possible. On education, we would like to see the focus on the education of girls. I think that that is something which should be built into the focus of the education efforts in East Timor.

My fifth point concerns the judicial system and the civilian administration, which, I think, is the part of the capacity-building that we spoke about. I was happy to hear today that the East Timorese are taking the lead. Mr. Vieira de Mello mentioned the preparation of the criminal procedure code, and training is taking place in Australia for judicial purposes. I think this is a positive approach and we believe that it should be carried further.

Sixthly, on reconciliation efforts, we are very happy that the Indonesian Government has been very forthcoming in this regard. Mr. Vieira de Mello's visit last month to Jakarta, and the proposed visit of President Wahid to East Timor, are very important signals that reconciliation efforts are being made in the right direction.

My seventh point relates to human rights violations. I think that this is what we have learned from today's presentation, from the report of the International Commission of Inquiry and from the report of the Indonesian Commission of Inquiry into Human Rights Violations in East Timor, which the national Government of Indonesia prepared. All these reports point to serious violations of human rights, and we believe that that issue needs to be addressed. But a major concern of ours is that we should try to create a situation in which human rights are not violated in the future. It is important to take that into account.

My eighth point relates to regional support. We believe that the Association of South-East Asian Nations and the other regional organization, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, should step forward to support development and reconciliation efforts in East Timor. I think regional actors and Powers can play a very useful role in this regard.

Finally, when Mr. Vieira de Mello spoke about the challenge of beginning the infrastructural and developmental work planned for six months, he asked for a quick advance disbursement of funds. Yes, that is important, and we believe that it will be possible to work out a mechanism that will result in quick disbursement of funds. The United Nations is not very well known for quick utilization of the resources available to it. For East Timor we have a commitment of $522 million for 800,000 people. This is a major commitment, and it would be really frustrating to see the efforts falter and fail because of lack of disbursement of funds. I think this is what is important and believe that we, as members of the Council, cannot and should not allow this to happen.

We should be careful not to allow the East Timorese enthusiasm for independence to sag at this point in time.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the representative of Bangladesh for his kind words addressed to me.

Mr. Fowler (Canada): Like others, Canada wishes to express its deep appreciation for what we consider to be the remarkable efforts and achievements of Sergio Vieira de Mello. Mr. Vieira de Mello deserves special praise for involving the East Timorese so closely in the work of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) and for working, through the creation of the National Consultative Council to build local capacity for security and self-governance throughout the territory.

We welcome the constructive steps taken by UNTAET, the National Council of Timorese Resistance and the Indonesian Government to work together to speed the return of refugees, coordinate the establishment of checkpoints and refugee border crossings and otherwise limit the incidence of border skirmishes. We remain concerned, however, at continuing instances of West Timorese militias targeting civilians and International Force in East Timor (INTERFET) troops, and we take this occasion to ask the Indonesian Government to redouble its efforts to bring such acts of violence to a complete stop.

Canada welcomes the release this week of reports of both the International Commission of Inquiry on East Timor and of the Indonesian Commission of Inquiry into Human Rights Violations in East Timor. Canada has supported these parallel investigations, as we strongly believe in reconciliation through truth and justice. Indonesia will have the opportunity to prosecute its nationals for serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law, and in this regard we are encouraged by President Wahid's statement that there will be no impunity for human rights abusers.

Canada joins Mr. Vieira de Mello and others in expressing concern over the recent rise in violent crime in East Timor and the potential for additional serious social problems resulting from dramatically high and persistent unemployment and a shattered infrastructure. In this regard, we fully support Mr. Vieira de Mello's focused efforts to integrate East Timorese into UNTAET functions and decision-making processes.

Canada is currently contributing a reinforced infantry company of about 250 soldiers to INTERFET. The naval support ship and the C-130 transport aircraft that were part of the Canadian contribution completed their missions and returned to Canada before Christmas. Canada's current contribution will be withdrawn by April this year.

We are pleased, however, that the Canadian infantry company will rehat as Blue Berets on 21 February. As I have stated in both formal and informal meetings on several occasions, this could and should have been a United Nations peacekeeping operation from the beginning. Had that been the case, it would have been structured in a politically more congenial manner, and its significant costs would have been more equitably and more appropriately apportioned among member States.

Five Canadian staff officers will remain with UNTAET, if they are required; but the bulk of Canada's future contribution is likely to take the form of humanitarian assistance. Since last April, Canada has provided almost $7 million in support of the United Nations consultation process, humanitarian assistance and reconciliation efforts in East Timor. Canada is currently working closely with non-governmental and international organizations and, of course, with the East Timorese to determine the most appropriate form of longer-term future Canadian assistance to the people of East Timor.

Miss Durrant (Jamaica): First of all, I wish to express my delegation's pleasure in seeing you, Sir, preside over the Council's deliberations during the month of February. We are sure that under your wise guidance and leadership the business of the Council will be conducted in an efficient and effective manner. You may be assured of my delegation's cooperation.

My delegation wishes to welcome the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in East Timor, Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello, to the Security Council. We wish to thank the Secretary-General for his very comprehensive report and to thank Mr. Vieira de Mello for his very lucid briefing on the work of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET). We listened with great attention to his assessment of the situation there. We are aware of the monumental challenges facing him as he and UNTAET members, in collaboration with the East Timorese people, seek to lay the foundation for a transition to independence.

As Mr. Vieira de Mello pointed out, the East Timorese have high expectations of the international

community, and of the United Nations in particular. They face a perilous economic and social situation, with rising crime, high unemployment, over 80 per cent of the people without visible means of support and over 50 per cent illiteracy. It is clear that the needs of the East Timorese must be addressed at all levels. We are therefore pleased with the ambitious programme outlined by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the objectives he proposed for UNTAET for the first six months. We wish to congratulate him and his staff on their dynamic and energetic approach.

Jamaica strongly supports the work of UNTAET and its unprecedented role in nation-building. Its role in establishing a viable, democratic and sustainable system of governance and public administration is critical. The participation of the East Timorese in creating and building these institutions is of fundamental importance, as this will create for them a sense of ownership of the process. It was therefore encouraging to hear from Mr. Vieira de Mello his assessment of the work of the National Consultative Council and of the participation of all relevant parties. We see this as a positive step towards national reconciliation. Some committees have already been established, and we look forward, over the next few months, to hearing reports of the establishment of the other committees and the work they are carrying out.

We are encouraged by the cooperation of the Government of Indonesia and hope that the relations developed by UNTAET and the forthcoming visit of the President of Indonesia later this month to East Timor will lead to normalization of relations between Indonesia and East Timor. We hope that this will allow for the acceleration of the return of the refugees and the resettlement of those who wish to return to Indonesia. But while the rate of return of refugees has been encouraging, with over 130,000 having returned so far, the Secretary-General's report indicates that conditions in the refugee camps are still a cause of concern, and for us the obstruction of access of United Nations personnel to the camps is unacceptable. We hope that this can be addressed speedily.

So far, the cooperation and collaboration of the international community, as evidenced by the level of support demonstrated at the recent pledging conferences, must be commended. But we note that Mr. Viera de Mello has called for quick disbursement of these funds, and we hope that the international donor community will seriously address this.

As far as the security situation is concerned, we are deeply concerned about the incidents of violence. These incidents have served to undermine the generally stable security situation, and we note that the United Nations force will adopt a firm posture in maintaining security throughout the Territory. However, the fact that these incidents have continued to occur and have occurred very recently, and their apparent contributing causes — unemployment and frustration — all further demonstrate the urgency with which UNTAET must continue to carry out its mandate. We agree with the previous speakers who have emphasized the law and order situation — that the need for the deployment of the civilian police, the training of judges and the establishment of the judicial system are all necessary if the people of East Timor are to be provided with a functioning judiciary and police operation.

Mr. Viera de Mello referred to the need to re-establish prisons and for the work of the military police and detention centres of the International Force in East Timor (INTERFET) to come under civilian operations, and we are therefore pleased to note the involvement in the training of East Timorese, both including judicial and civil service personnel, as well as other officials.

The Secretary-General's report also emphasized a number of positive developments, not the least of which is the establishment of the Transitional Judicial Service Commission and the Public Service Commission. We wanted to commend those countries that have offered training facilities for the East Timorese, and we believe that the whole question of human resource development is key to the progress of East Timor. We have noted the efforts that have been made in the restructuring of the education system, and we urge that a programme of adult literacy be incorporated into this. The fact that we have been told about the quick-impact projects with the World Bank, also involving the United Nations funds and programmes, should not make us lose sight of the fact that we need long-term programmes which will address the sustainable development of East Timor. We think it is very important for this long-term programme to be elaborated over the next few months.

The Secretary-General, in his report, emphasized the need to produce tangible results for the people of East Timor by creating employment and providing a range of public services, while supporting the reintegration of displaced persons from West Timor. The failure to accomplish this could easily negate the efforts of all

concerned to bring peace and security to the people of East Timor.

I want to make a brief reference to the reports which have been presented pointing to serious violations of human rights. We believe that these must be addressed by the international community and by the Government of Indonesia, and we have noted the determination expressed by the Indonesian Government to prosecute the perpetrators.

In closing, I wish to express again my delegation's support for the work of UNTAET and to wish Mr. Viera de Mello and his staff all success in their efforts.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the representative of Jamaica for her kind words addressed to me.

Mr. Granovsky (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We associate ourselves with the high assessment of the activity of your predecessor, Sir, the Permanent Representative of the United States, Mr. Richard Holbrooke, as President of the Security Council, and we express our warm wishes to you for success in your work in the Security Council during the month of February.

We also wish to express our gratitude to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello, for his extremely important and comprehensive briefing.

In view of the constraints of time, I shall limit myself to stating our general political assessment of the situation, without going into detail on specific issues that have already been addressed in previous statements. In our view, the Secretary-General's report on the initial results of the work of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) provides sufficient grounds for a satisfactory assessment. This conclusion is based on three fundamental factors that determine the current situation in the Territory: a substantive improvement in the security situation; secondly, the establishment of a mechanism through which the East Timorese are participating in decision-making and thanks to which, we hope, the process of national reconciliation will be strengthened; and thirdly, the successful establishment of a Transitional Administration under the skilled and wide-ranging guidance of the Secretary-General's Special Representative, Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello.

Naturally, we are only at the beginning of the lengthy and complex path that East Timor will have to take to achieve independence and stable political and economic development. However, we believe a good start has been made. At the same time, we are concerned by repeated reports of episodes of activities of the pro-integration militias that have led to incidents at the border between West Timor and East Timor and to a campaign of intimidation against East Timorese refugees. We are counting on the fact that the relevant agreements between Mr. Xanana Gusmão and Mr. João Tavares on disbanding militia units will be carried out in the very near future.

Ensuring security and establishing administrative governance are, naturally, important bases for the further normalization of the situation in East Timor. However, genuine stabilization is inconceivable without a normally functioning economy. We are gratified by the fact that the international community has responded speedily to East Timor's needs. This is attested to by the results of the December donors' meeting held in Tokyo. We believe this has established a positive beginning for achieving the objectives in the areas of civil administration, reconstruction and development.

In conclusion, I would like once again to wish Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello and all the UNTAET personnel the greatest possible success in their work.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the representative of the Russian Federation for the kind words he addressed to me.

Mr. Hasmy (Malaysia): My delegation associates itself fully with the complimentary remarks addressed to you, Mr. President, and to your predecessor, Ambassador Holbrooke. My delegation is also pleased to see Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello here again to address the Council in this discussion of the issue of East Timor, and we thank him for his comprehensive briefing on the situation since he took up his position there.

My delegation is gratified that the security situation in East Timor has greatly improved, despite some remaining problems, which, in our view, augurs well for the early and smooth transition of the Territory to independence in the not-too-distant future. We welcome the phasing in of United Nations peacekeeping forces, which we hope will be completed as scheduled.

My delegation notes with concern reports of increased crime, which is attributed to rampant unemployment, poverty and the settling of past feuds. The situation must be addressed urgently and prevented from spreading, so that the culture of peace and rule of law will be in place, instead of one of violence and lawlessness.

Indeed, it would appear that the situation would require more police personnel than peacekeeping troops. At the same time, the socio-economic problems that contributed to the increase in acts of criminality should be addressed through development and reconstruction programmes, which must be undertaken urgently to cater to a population that has been, for the most part, uprooted and displaced during the conflict and must now be assisted to settle upon their return to their homes and villages.

In this regard, we were gratified by the overwhelming positive response during the donor meeting in Tokyo last December. These funds must be mobilized quickly and effectively for purposes of the reconstruction efforts. We therefore welcome the Quick Impact Projects of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) and the road rehabilitation projects of the United Nations Development Programme, which have provided employment for local people.

As regards the settling of old scores or vendettas between the opposing groups, serious efforts must be made to foster national reconciliation among the East Timorese, along with effective efforts in disarming former combatants of both sides. We would appreciate it if Mr. Vieira de Mello could say something about the issue of disarming the ex-combatants, if he has the time to do so. In this regard, my delegation calls on all parties concerned to step up their reconciliation efforts and to utilize the National Consultative Council for this purpose. We believe that traditional and local institutions, such as the Church and village elders, could and should also play a facilitative role.

Malaysia is pleased to note the improved relations between East Timor and Indonesia. We hope that the planned visit of President Wahid to East Timor later this month will further improve these relations. As we have stated so often in the past, it is important for East Timor to undertake reconciliation, not only among its own people, but also with its immediate neighbour, Indonesia. We warmly welcome these positive trends. On its part, Malaysia looks forward to the upcoming visit of Mr. Xanana Gusmão and Mr. Ramos-Horta to Kuala Lumpur some time this month. We welcome any move by East Timor to integrate itself into the region. I am confident that the regional States will respond appropriately.

Clearly, according to the briefing given by Mr. Vieira de Mello, a lot of work remains to be done to rehabilitate East Timor, which must be undertaken urgently in the face of rising expectations on the part of the East Timorese people. The international community must continue to give its strong support to UNTAET.

On the issue of human rights and their violation, we, too, believe that there should be a full accounting of what happened, so that justice can be done and those responsible brought to book. We also note, however, that Indonesia has taken concrete positive steps in addressing this issue. These are taken with seriousness and without fear or favour. I think this aspect should also be considered or factored in by the Council as it considers the report.

In conclusion, we wish to commend the Special Representative and Transitional Administrator for East Timor and the entire staff of UNTAET for their outstanding work in very difficult circumstances.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the representative of Malaysia for the kind words he addressed to me.

Mr. Yel'chenko (Ukraine): I congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the February presidency of the Security Council. Please be assured of the full support of the delegation of Ukraine.

I would like also to thank Mr. Vieira de Mello for his comprehensive briefing, which provided us with a clear and objective picture of the situation in East Timor and the related activities of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET). It is good to see him here and we wish him every success. I am sure that his personal determination can leave no doubt of the further achievements of the very difficult mission which he is heading.

I wish to make just a few brief remarks. We are glad to note that the internal security situation in East Timor has greatly normalized, especially due to the efforts of the International Force in East Timor (INTERFET) and UNTAET. We believe that the United Nations Force should adopt a firm posture in maintaining security throughout the Territory. We note with satisfaction the establishment of the National Consultative

Council of East Timor, through which the representatives of the East Timorese can participate in the decision-making process. It is an important step on the path to reconciliation and the further development of the Territory, as well as evidence of the very good relations between UNTAET and the East Timorese.

We also welcome the positive developments in relations between East Timor and Indonesia. This will provide a good basis for future stability in the whole region.

We are glad to note that UNTAET has established the basic elements of the administrative structure and is actively coordinating humanitarian assistance efforts. As the devastating effects of the systematic destruction and violence of last September and the consequent disruption of civil and public services will continue to be serious impediments for the foreseeable future, we believe that the establishment of the basic governance and public administration component must remain among the main priority tasks of UNTAET.

We are deeply concerned over the conditions of the refugees in the camps in West Timor and we are also concerned by the serious problems of refugees in West Timor who need to return to East Timor, as well as by their ongoing intimidation by the militia. Unfortunately, there have been a number of violent clashes and incidents on the border between East and West Timor. In this context, we welcome the signing on 12 January by the Indonesian armed forces, INTERFET and UNTAET of a memorandum regulating their cooperation in the border areas, including the handling of incidents. We also note that the UNTAET civilian police component has undertaken several immediate measures to ensure a satisfactory level of law and order and to prevent such events.

We are deeply concerned that the crime rate in East Timor has increased, which is a serious threat to internal security and stability in the Territory. Deep poverty and unemployment are the cause of growing frustration in East Timorese society and should therefore be addressed as a major problem faced by UNTAET.

As far as the issue of human rights violations is concerned, our delegation is carefully studying the two reports by the International Commission of Inquiry on East Timor and the Indonesian Commission of Inquiry. We are encouraged by the fact that the Indonesian Government has taken concrete steps and shown a real interest in supporting the investigation and prosecution of the perpetrators through its domestic accountability mechanisms.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the representative of Ukraine for his kind words addressed to me.

Mr. Andjaba (Namibia): I associate myself with the words of welcome and congratulation addressed to you, Sir, and those of appreciation addressed to your predecessor.

I want to thank the Secretary-General for his interesting and comprehensive report on the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET). Let me also take this opportunity to thank Mr. Vieira de Mello for his briefing and the additional information he has provided. I want to state from the outset that, in my delegation's view, the report before us today reflects notable progress in virtually all areas of concern regarding the rebuilding and rehabilitation of East Timor, despite the challenges facing UNTAET. I have no doubt that most of these achievements can be attributed to the personal skills and dedication of Mr. Vieira de Mello.

Of particular importance to my delegation is the urgency and vision with which he has established the National Consultative Council as a framework for involving the East Timorese in the administration of the Territory. That forum is crucial to the nation as well to confidence-building. The role of that Council in national reconciliation can also not be overemphasized.

Another positive aspect of the report is the information regarding the continuing improvement of good relations between Indonesia and East Timor, which was enhanced by the visits of Mr. Gusmão and Mr. Vieira de Mello to Jakarta. The forthcoming visit of President Wahid to East Timor will provide an added dimension to these efforts, which are undoubtedly essential for cooperation between the countries. Examples of the positive results derived from the improved relationship, such as the release of East Timorese political prisoners and the possible official Indonesian representation in East Timor, are numerous in the report.

My delegation is gratified at the overall security situation in East Timor. It is unfortunate, however, that negative aspects, such as the outbreak of crime and gang violence, mainly due to socio-economic problems, are on

the rise. It now remains for UNTAET to address this problem urgently.

We note the great influence of unemployment on the situation in the country, as well as the efforts under way to address the situation. It would be interesting to know what impact the programmes currently envisioned will have on the overall unemployment situation. Furthermore, it would be useful if Mr. Viera de Mello could give us an indication of the level of interest shown thus far by other job-creating entities, such as the private sector, in the development of East Timor. With regard to the border incidents, we trust that the latest memorandum between UNTAET, the International Force in East Timor (INTERFET) and the Indonesian armed forces (TNI) will, in the first instance, prevent further incidents and, if it does not, at least enable the parties to effectively deal with the situation.

The critical outstanding concern remains the plight of the refugees in camps in West Timor, their safety and their repatriation, if they so desire. It is disappointing to note that the militias operate in the camps and that they prevent the United Nations from moving freely in the camps. I note that Mr. Viera de Mello has again discussed the matter with the Indonesian Government. I would like to know if there are any visible efforts to curtail the militia activities.

My delegation is gratified at the progress in the deployment of UNTAET, as well as the envisaged transfer from INTERFET to UNTAET. In this regard, we share the Secretary-General's appreciation for INTERFET, for the excellent work it has done so far.

We welcome the report of the International Commission of Inquiry on East Timor and have taken note of its conclusions and recommendations. We agree that everything should be done to ensure that the perpetrators of human rights abuses in East Timor are brought to justice. However, we have also noted the progress achieved thus far by the Indonesian Commission of Inquiry. At this stage, we think it would be more feasible to allow this process to take its course before further steps are taken by the international community.

Finally, I wish Mr. Viera de Mello and his staff all the best in their work.

Mr. van Walsum (Netherlands): I associate myself with the words of welcome addressed to you and the words of gratitude addressed to your predecessor.

My delegation is grateful to Mr. Vieira de Mello for his impressive briefing, which supplements the already very informative report of the Secretary-General. We welcome the positive developments described in the report and the briefing, such as the improved security situation. It is no small matter that "for most people", to quote the report, "there is now no threat of violence" (S/2000/53, para.2). We also welcome the work of the National Consultative Council in the five sessions that have taken place, the close cooperation between the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) and the East Timorese, the recruitment of local staff and the beginning of the transition from the International Force in East Timor (INTERFET) to the military component of UNTAET. Two weeks ago, Senator Jesse Helms gave us fair warning about his southern accent, but I am beginning to believe that it takes a southern accent to properly pronounce the acronym of UNTAET. I also welcome the fact that UNTAET is giving priority to increasing employment, provision of basic needs such as water, food and accommodation and to reintegration of refugees.

We are satisfied about the good cooperation between the United Nations, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and donor countries. With the Secretary-General, we welcome the positive developments in the relationship between Indonesia and East Timor.

It is clear that some negative aspects remain, and they all seem to be related somehow to the poor state of the economy. The increase of the crime rate and the re-emergence of long-standing conflicts within East Timorese society both seem to have to do with that.

The situation in the camps in West Timor continues to be intolerable. It is not acceptable that the militias still operate there and that the access of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is restricted.

We are also disappointed that border incidents continue despite the memorandum signed by the Indonesian armed forces (TNI), the International Force in East Timor (INTERFET) and UNTAET providing for cooperation in the border area and formalizing the deployment of United Nations border liaison teams. In this connection, we were interested to hear Mr. Vieira de Mello refer to his contacts with General Kiki Syahnakri, the Governor of West Timor, and we are interested to learn more about his assessment of this situation as well.

It is clear that all delegations agree that those responsible for human rights abuses must be brought to justice. That is also the view of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia. We welcome the commitment of that Government to bring those responsible for human rights abuses to justice through Indonesia's national judicial system.

We agree with Mr. Vieira de Mello that the United Nations owes East Timor a debt and that, therefore, we must try to turn the whole operation of UNTAET into a paradigm of nation-building. Another argument for aiming that high is that the East Timor crisis was handled from beginning to end on a consensus basis. No Security Council action is ever perfect, and I would not call our handling of the East Timor crisis a paradigm of Security Council intervention, but the issue never left the Council and, therefore, never needed to be brought back to the Council. Against that positive background, there is all the more reason to make East Timor a success all the way. Mr. Vieira de Mello has our full support in bringing that about.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the representative of the Netherlands for his kind words addressed to me.

Mr. Shen Guofang (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): First of all I would like to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for this month. The Chinese delegation will fully support your work. We would also like to thank Ambassador Holbrooke and the United States delegation for their outstanding work last month in the Council. I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report and Mr. Vieira de Mello for his comprehensive briefing.

We are gratified by the positive evolution of the situation in East Timor. This progress would not have been possible without the joint efforts of the United Nations and all the parties concerned. We would especially like to express our deep appreciation to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Vieira de Mello, and to all the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) personnel for their outstanding work under difficult and harsh conditions.

At the same time, we note that we should not be overly optimistic about the situation in East Timor. There are still great difficulties involved in reconstructing East Timor, particularly in rebuilding its infrastructure, building judicial institutions and establishing rule of law, and in creating employment. China believes that it has not been easy to come this far in East Timor, and this hard-won achievement needs to be nurtured.

The most pressing tasks taken on by all the parties in East Timor should be to maintain stability and to persist in the reconstruction and reconciliation efforts. In this context, the Chinese delegation would like to underscore the following points.

First, as regards smoothly transforming the International Force in East Timor (INTERFET) into a United Nations peacekeeping operation, China has always advocated the settlement of the question of East Timor within the framework of the United Nations. We hope that the Blue Helmets will successfully take the baton from INTERFET as scheduled, and assume responsibility for ensuring the security of East Timor and helping create a stable environment for rebuilding the society. In particular, civilian police should be deployed as soon as possible.

Secondly, regarding the gradual assumption by the East Timorese people of self-governance, the National Consultative Council of East Timor (NCC) is an effective mechanism by which the East Timorese people can participate in administration and decision-making in East Timor. As pointed out in the Secretary-General's report, UNTAET has benefited greatly from close cooperation with the East Timorese groups represented in the NCC. We hope UNTAET will continue its broad consultations with all the sides and will train local personnel with a view to the independence and self-governance of the East Timorese people.

Thirdly, as regards maintaining the unity of the East Timorese people and continuing to promote reconciliation, we concur with the Secretary-General's observation that maintaining the unity of purpose that the National Council of Timorese Resistance (CNRT) has demonstrated so far will be a key element in ensuring a smooth transition to independence, and that the inclusion of pro-autonomy groups in the NCC was an important step on the path to reconciliation. We hope that the leaders of all East Timorese groups will continue to play a positive role in promoting the reconciliation process.

Fourthly, regarding the active promotion of relations between East Timor and Indonesia, this will help enhance stability in the region and promote the settlement of unresolved questions, such as the safe return of refugees now stranded in camps in West Timor. The Secretary-

General will soon make a visit to Indonesia and East Timor. We hope that his visit will foster further improvements in the relations between the two sides.

Fifthly, China will continue to support and participate in relevant activities in the framework of the United Nations, so as to help East Timor make a smooth transition. We are ready to become a friend and a cooperative partner of the region. The President of the CNRT, Mr. Gusmão, visited China recently and was warmly received by China's leaders.

As the first stage in its assistance, the Chinese Government has provided $50 million yuan renminbi in grants in aid to East Timor. Within its means, China will continue to provide assistance to the reconstruction process in East Timor.

At present East Timor is faced with the formidable task of rebuilding in all sectors. Helping East Timor make a smooth transition is a challenge for the United Nations. We are gratified by the good beginning that has been made and hope that all concerned will continue to maintain the present momentum of cooperation and help the East Timorese people overcome their temporary difficulties and rebuild their society in good time.

Finally, I would like to say a few words about the human rights situation in East Timor, about which we are very concerned. We note that the International Commission of Inquiry and the Indonesian Government have both released reports on the human rights situation there. We also note that the Indonesian President has stated that his Administration will seriously study the Indonesian Commission of Inquiry's report and, in accordance with Indonesian national law, take action. We believe that the Indonesian Government is able and ready to conduct investigations, as well as to carry out prosecutions.

The President *(spoke in Spanish)*: I thank the representative of China for his kind words addressed to my delegation.

Mr. Ben Mustapha (Tunisia) (*spoke in French*): Let me reiterate here my congratulations to you, Sir, on your accession to the presidency of the Security Council for the month of February, as well as our complete willingness to work with you for the success of your mission. I would also like to congratulate Ambassador Holbrooke on the success of the American presidency during the month of January.

I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report on East Timor and Mr. Vieira de Mello for his complete and clear account of how the situation in that Territory is evolving, its positive features and, above all, the remaining difficulties and tasks.

Despite the precariousness of the situation and the manifold difficulties, my delegation cannot but be pleased by the progress that has been achieved and the concrete advances that have been made. I therefore seize this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Sergio de Mello and his team on the efforts they have made and on the determination with which they are carrying out their work.

Pleased as we are about the general situation on the ground, Tunisia nonetheless stresses the importance of the consolidation and national reconciliation of East Timor and of the establishment of peaceful, good-neighbourly relations between East Timor and its neighbours.

Tunisia is also pleased by the arrangements for and the progress achieved regarding transferring the International Force in East Timor to the United Nations within an appropriate time-frame and under good conditions. I would also like to praise the goodwill that the Indonesian Government has shown in cooperating with the United Nations and its evident determination to develop good relations with all the parties. This positive attitude has been shown in actions the Government has taken to find solutions to problems arising from the crisis, including those related to violations of human rights. In particular, Indonesia's acts have included meetings with leaders and the liberation of political prisoners. In addition, it intends to establish cooperative relations in several fields, and has decided to establish a working group to speed the return of refugees to East Timor.

We agree that there is a need to strengthen the capacities of the humanitarian organizations on the ground so that they can discharge their duties under the best possible conditions. In this context, effective coordination between the various agencies operating on the ground is designed to maximize results, as Mr. Vieira de Mello emphasized.

Finally, I should like to welcome the financial support that the international community is providing for East Timor. That support is continuing to grow, as was demonstrated during the donors' meeting in Tokyo.

Before concluding, I should also like to point out that we attach great importance to the efforts and the commitment being made by the international community to restore peace, stability and prosperity for the population of East Timor.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the representative of Tunisia for the kind words he addressed to me.

Mr. Ouane (Mali) (*spoke in French*): Mali is pleased to see you, Sir, presiding over the Security Council for the month of February. You may rely on my delegation's full cooperation. I would like to thank you for having convened today's meeting, which has provided us with an opportunity to hear Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Transitional Administrator in East Timor, explain the situation there to us with his customary rigour. This is a positive working method that we should continue to use, as it is a means of providing useful information to members and non-members of the Council, thereby contributing to the transparency of the Council's activity.

I had several questions in mind, but taking the floor at this stage of the discussion, I find that some of them have already been dealt with by Mr. Vieira de Mello in his introductory statement and that others have already been raised by my colleagues. I shall not, therefore, repeat them, but confine myself simply to making a few brief observations.

First of all, I should like to express satisfaction at the positive evaluation of the relationship between East Timor and Indonesia. In this context, the report of the Secretary-General contains very valuable information, especially on the exchange of visits between the two countries. With regard to governance and public administration, I should like to welcome the considerable efforts that have been made in many fields since the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) was established to achieve progress towards creating a solid foundation for East Timor as an independent state.

As for the economic and social prospects for East Timor, I should like to stress the need for the pledges made during the donors' meeting in Tokyo to be released as soon as possible so that UNTAET and its East Timorese partners can work more effectively and better meet the needs of the population of East Timor. From this perspective, we believe that it is important to maintain the excellent links of cooperation that have been established between the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions, non-governmental organizations and donors.

With regard to human rights issues, I should like to express my delegation's concern about the human rights violations that are taking place in the country. At the same time, we are gratified to see that the Indonesian authorities have taken positive steps and we urge them to persevere in this area. We believe that those who are committing such crimes must be identified, pursued and punished. My delegation will be studying in depth the two reports relating to this question.

In conclusion, I should like to express our gratitude to the Secretary-General, his Special Representative, Mr. Vieira de Mello, and all those who are working to restore peace and promote reconciliation in East Timor.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the representative of Mali for the kind words he addressed to me.

Mr. Holbrooke (United States of America): I congratulate you, Sir, on taking over the gavel as President of the Security Council. I apologize for being late, but I had the chance to have a good exchange of views with Sergio Vieira de Mello earlier this morning. In fact, I was delayed because I was trying to gain some additional American support for his mission and engaging in conversations in the Secretariat with the Secretary-General and his colleagues. So I apologize.

I want to begin by congratulating you, Mr. President, for beginning this month by focusing on this issue. It demands our attention. This is a historically important transitional month in East Timor, and I want to commend our friend and colleague, Sergio Vieira de Mello, for his unceasing efforts, made under very difficult conditions in East Timor. I visited him myself in November and could see the difficult conditions he was operating under. I had only one question in my mind, which was how he managed to look as if his suit had just been dry cleaned and pressed, while everyone else in East Timor looked as though they had not cleaned their clothes in a month. This was a mystery which I cannot explain.

He is taking very, very dramatic actions, and I believe that the first few months of the United Nations effort in East Timor give us hope that history will record this as another United Nations success. Of course, the

final results are far from being in our hands. There are issues that we are concerned about, such as the growing unrest and crime in Dili. But I know that Sergio is working on these very aggressively.

In his remarks, he stressed the importance of the World Bank, and we share that view. We urge the World Bank to begin to have its trust funds flow immediately, and we also urge everyone to step up to the plate and make as much effort as possible to help the United Nations on the civilian police and in creating a local East Timorese police force.

I think that the consultative arrangements that the Special Representative has created with the East Timorese are excellent, and a model for people in other parts of the world. I also think that his recent trip to Jakarta and his frank and productive discussions with the Indonesian Foreign Minister and other officials have also been very productive. We are delighted that the Secretary-General will be going to Indonesia and East Timor and that President Wahid is also going to plan a visit to East Timor.

I know, however, that reconciliation between Indonesia and East Timor is going to be undermined as long as the refugees in the camps remain in their current mode. We are deeply concerned that the number still appears to be over 100,000, despite the fact that there has been some movement out of the camps. We are deeply disturbed that the movement out of the camps has slowed to a trickle, and I remain extremely puzzled by the inability of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other agencies to do more in this regard. I am told repeatedly that UNHCR is doing everything it can, but I find that hard to believe given the objective situation on the ground. But the real problem is not with UNHCR; it is with the Indonesian military, some elements of which continue to support the militia, even as they try to fight against the internal Commission of Inquiry report and the International Commission of Inquiry.

I want to take this opportunity to express our strong support for the Secretary-General's call to encourage the Indonesians to conduct a more thorough investigation and to take action on their own.

We support Attorney-General Marzuki and the other brave members of the Indonesian Government and the Commission of Inquiry with whom I met in Jakarta in November in their efforts for full accountability on an internal basis. The Indonesian Commission did impressive work, but if they cannot deal with their problem internally they must recognize that international pressure on them will mount, and the pressure for the recommendations as called for by the International Commission of Inquiry on East Timor for an international tribunal will also increase.

I hope that people in Indonesia understand that the world is listening. The best way to avoid what they do not wish — which is an international tribunal — is to have a credible internal effort. That is strongly our view. Therefore, we applaud the international report, and we await the Indonesians' full response to it.

In conclusion, I want to simply stress again how strongly we wish to support the efforts of the United Nations in East Timor, and this will include additional actions that we are working on now with Mr. Vieira de Mello and with the Secretariat. Mr. Vieira de Mello, I am just delighted to see you back in New York, and I wish you all the best as you return this weekend to continue your mission of such great importance. We look forward to the day that you will come here and report to us a date on which East Timor will become, I believe, the first new nation of the new millennium.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the representative of the United States for his kind words addressed to me.

I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of Argentina.

There is very little to add to this very exhaustive and informative debate, but first of all, I cannot fail to thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report and to thank Mr. Vieira de Mello for the very broad and useful information he has provided us. I would also like to express my delegation's thanks to the United Nations Transitional Administrator for the excellent work he is accomplishing in East Timor, and I would like to extend our congratulations to all the personnel of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) for their brilliant performance under extremely difficult conditions.

Secondly, now that the transfer from the International Force in East Timor (INTERFET) to the military component of UNTAET is under way, the countries that participated in the International Force should be thanked. It is especially necessary to pay tribute to Major General Peter Cosgrove for his

consummate professionalism and his courageous leadership of INTERFET.

The United Nations has taken up a very important challenge in shouldering the burden for the administration and preparation of East Timor for independence. In the first three months, in close consultation with the Timorese represented in the National Consultative Council (NCC), UNTAET has managed to make progress in some key areas, but, as we see from the Secretary-General's report and from Mr. Vieira de Mello, much remains to be done to create a foundation for an independent, stable and prosperous East Timor.

Along these lines, I would like to indicate my delegation's concern for the still-unresolved question of the refugees in West Timor and our concern about the conduct of some elements in the militias who continue to harass Timorese, particularly in the Oecussi enclave. Similarly, I would like to say that the growing social tensions in the cities of East Timor and the growth in the rate of delinquency are negative factors that could jeopardize social stability in the Territory. We agree with the Secretary-General and with other comments made today that these questions are intimately linked to the serious economic situation, the high rate of unemployment and the abysmal condition of public services. We hope that the highest priority will be attached to solving these problems.

Finally, I would like to point out the importance for East Timor of normalizing its relationship with Indonesia and the need to promote genuine reconciliation between the peoples and the authorities of both countries. We trust that the exchange of bilateral visits will contribute to solving some of the pending issues and make it possible to find a solution to the problem of refugees and border control between East and West Timor.

As regards the human rights questions raised several times during today's discussion, I agree with the idea that at some point the Security Council will have to examine in informal consultations the letter dated 31 January 2000 from the Secretary-General to the Council and to other bodies of the United Nations. I think that will also be an appropriate occasion to look at the letter of the Secretary-General to the Security Council also dated 31 January 2000 in which he transmits to us the letter addressed to him by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia on this subject.

I now resume my function as President of the Council.

I now give the floor to Mr. Vieira de Mello to respond to the observations and questions addressed to him and to make any other statement that he may wish to make.

Mr. Vieira de Mello: Thank you all for your words of encouragement. Let me say how greatly strengthened and stimulated I feel after again meeting with you in this Chamber and hearing your supportive statements. I have taken note of all the observations and suggestions that you have made, and I will take them back with me to Dili over the weekend to relay to my colleagues there.

Mr. President, you have just asked me to respond to some of the specific questions that have been put to me, and I will do so with pleasure.

Ambassador Eldon put a question to me that was also formulated in different words by Ambassadors Yel'chenko, von Walsum, Holbrooke and by yourself. He specifically requested me to provide the Council with an assessment of future potential militia activity and asked what could be done to tackle this problem. There are different ways in which this can be addressed. I referred, as does the Secretary-General's report, to the primary role of the Indonesian Government, in particular the Indonesian armed forces and the Indonesian police. I have mentioned to you that this has been raised repeatedly by both Major General Cosgrove and by myself, including last week, and the indications I have received, in particular from General Kiki Syahnakri, who is the Udayana regional commander based in Den Pasa, are encouraging.

What we are dealing with are the remnants, the vestiges, of militia groups. These are small bands of 15 to 30 elements each, who have been particularly active, as you know, around the Oecussi enclave, both on its eastern and western borders. Most of these small groups appear to be under the command of one individual whose name is well known and is mentioned in the Secretary-General's report and which I have mentioned repeatedly; Major General Cosgrove has also repeatedly mentioned it to the military and civilian authorities of Indonesia. General Syahnakri promised me last week that this person would be detained. I have received this morning a report which indicates that he will in fact be interrogated by the joint investigative team of our civilian police on the basis of evidence gathered inside the Oecussi enclave, as well as by the Indonesian National Police, POLRI, who will fingerprint him and photograph him for further judicial action, we hope.

General Syahnakri also reiterated to me all the steps he had taken since his appointment to search camps for weapons, to establish checkpoints — which I have seen with my own eyes — around refugee settlements in Atambua, as well as in areas close to the border between East and West Timor. He also indicated to me that despite his limited resources he would increase patrols around the Oecussi enclave on the Indonesian side of the border. All of this is extremely encouraging. I have requested General De Los Santos, the new Philippino Force Commander of the United Nations in East Timor, to establish and maintain with General Syahnakri and his superiors in Jakarta at the headquarters of the TNI, the Indonesian armed forces, headquarters the closest possible relations so as to build upon previous agreements: the one signed in the presence of Ambassador Holbrooke in late November, and the one mentioned here signed between General Cosgrove and General Syahnakri on 12 January.

Repression of these hard-core, hard-line, die-hard militia leaders is not sufficient. They must be deprived of their political base or of their political command and control structures. For that to happen I strongly believe that political dialogue must be increased and must be strengthened with the many different political leaders representing the pro-autonomy, pro-integrationist cause that continue to live and operate out of West Timor. I met with some of them last week. They have just held a congress, which was not entirely conclusive in terms of unifying the pro-autonomy groups and certainly not terribly successful, I am told, in terms of providing the moderate course of action which the Indonesian Government, UNTAET and Xanana Gusmão have been promoting, the broad majority support of pro-integrationist groups in West Timor.

I am told that, unfortunately, it is still the hard line that seems to have prevailed, which further demonstrates the need for us to engage the pro-autonomy leaders in continued systematic dialogue. They must not be excluded. I think this would be a dangerous course of action. They must be involved. They must be reassured that if they opt for democratic, non-violent means, they can, they must return and engage in normal political activities in the new framework that we shall establish in due course for the functioning of political parties in East Timor. In other words, they should abandon their past aspirations, which were defeated by the majority on 30 August, look towards the future and work within the new framework we are establishing.

Ambassador Hasmy asked me what could be done to disarm ex-combatants. I think I have indicated what General Syahnakri and his predecessor have been doing with the help of the Indonesian police and what additional measures he intends to take. As far as disarming inside the Territory of East Timor, as members know, the Armed Forces for the National Liberation of East Timor, Falintil, have been cantoned on the basis of the 5 May 1999 Agreement. They have been extremely disciplined. They have respected fully that Agreement. They are not allowed to carry their weapons outside the single cantonment area that now exists in Aileu on the hills above Dili. They have fully complied with that requirement. Finally, I think I should also mention that 17 tons of weapons have been collected, found in caches or retrieved from individuals in East Timor by the International Force in East Timor, INTERFET, during the last four to five months. We shall soon be disposing of these weapons by dumping them into the high seas off the shores of East Timor with a small symbolic ceremony at the centre of Dili.

Ambassador Eldon also asked me to make sure that the new East Timorese police force will be trained so as to act in accordance with established international standards. I can assure him that that indeed will be part of their training in the new police academy, whenever we manage to repair and equip that academy because, as I said, that is one of our chronic problems: how to rebuild public buildings, where to find funds to rebuild and equip public buildings such as this academy, as well as the academy for the new civil service, and so forth.

Ambassador Chowdhury asked me what we would be doing to accelerate the deployment of civilian policemen. This is an issue we have been discussing with our colleagues here in the Secretariat. We will have a series of meetings today and tomorrow to ensure the rapid deployment of the remaining 1,100 civilian police that we badly require.

Ambassador Eldon, later supported by Ambassadors Dejammet, Andjaba and Holbrooke, asked me concretely what we could do in order to improve our ability to access those funds pledged in Tokyo in December last year. Let me limit my comments to reconstruction only. We will be discussing with World Bank officials today and tomorrow how to accelerate the implementation of the six-month reconstruction plan that I referred to in my presentation, while, of course, adhering fully to established World Bank procedures. I will be asking them if it will be possible to have the Bank agree to rapid disbursements of funds intended for reconstruction projects in the different areas we identified in early

January without in any way interfering with the normal progress of the project formulation, approval, international tender and procurement process that the World Bank cannot deviate from.

We will also discuss with them the possible allocation to the United Nations Trust Fund, as distinct from the World Bank trust fund, of some of the unearmarked pledges made in Tokyo. This would give us the possibility to proceed with badly needed reconstruction projects, in particular, as I said, of public buildings all over the country, while the Bank proceeds with the preparation of its own reconstruction sector and reconstruction programmes.

Bilateral contributions — such as have been made by some countries represented in this room, for which we are most grateful — have enabled us to launch small projects that have kept electricity and water going, in Dili in particular, and have made possible the launching of some projects which Ambassador Hasmy referred to, particularly in terms of road maintenance and repair and a number of other infrastructure-related activities. Such contributions are welcome, and there are enough implementing partners — be they the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), other United Nations agencies or non-governmental organizations on the ground — that are more than willing to implement them in earnest.

Finally, as I mentioned in my presentation, some flexibility in the use of assessed contributions for those expenditures that are directly related to the implementation of our mandate — which is to create a viable East Timorese administration — would also be welcome. The Secretary-General, for members' information, has convened a meeting this afternoon, such is his personal interest in allowing us this flexibility — needless to say, with the support of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee.

Ambassador Andjaba asked me what other job-creating prospects we could count on — private investment and so on. I am afraid that, in the very near future, such prospects are remote and minimal. There does not exist sufficient confidence on the part of private investors in the region and beyond for them to come in in any significant way and help us in this critical short term to deal with the problem of unemployment. My hope is, after contact with some investors in countries of the region — be it Australia, Indonesia, Thailand and, I am sure, others that Mr. Xanana Gusmão has visited in recent days, including countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), China and the Republic of Korea — that there will be, in the medium term, much interest on the part of private investors in coming to East Timor, but only after we have managed to establish a durable climate of stability and a proper economic and fiscal regulatory environment, which, as I indicated, we are actively working on.

(*spoke in French*)

Ambassador Dejammet asked me whether we knew how many Timorese living in exile would be likely to return to Timor. I am afraid that we do not have a comprehensive list of these human resources, but since December the National Council of Timorese Resistance (CNRT) has given us a few lists containing a few dozen names of East Timorese who would, apparently, be prepared to return. We are trying to get in touch with them and to see under what terms they would be prepared to return for a few months or a few years in support of our efforts.

He also noted that the resumption of economic activity would hinge on East Timor's normalizing relations with Indonesia and with the western part of the island of Timor. I agree with him entirely. Ambassador Granovsky identified the connection between normalized relations and the resumption of economic activity in Timor. One thing is certain: all this will depend on the reopening of the borders between East Timor and the western part of the island. This is one of the matters that we shall be negotiating with Indonesia. Jakarta would like the borders to reopen as soon as possible, but that will come about only when security has been made credibly to prevail there — in other words, once the threat of incursions, such as those that have occurred in recent weeks, becomes a thing of the past, as we hope it will.

Ambassador Dejammet also suggested that we try, as recommended in paragraph 18 of Security Council resolution 1272 (1999), to reduce UNTAET's military component, which would allow us to reallocate its funding to governance and reconstruction. As I said in my presentation and discussed with General De los Santos, we periodically re-evaluate the security situation and, thus, our military requirements on the field. I would be the first to recommend to the Security Council that there be a gradual reduction in the United Nations military component.

(*spoke in English*)

Ambassador Chowdhury of Bangladesh, supported by the Ambassador of Jamaica, raised a number of issues related to education and adult literacy. I have taken note of their suggestions and will make sure that both are integrated into our plan of action for education in the year 2000 and in subsequent such plans.

Ambassador Chowdhury also raised the question of the prevention of recurrence of human rights violations in the future. I can report that, on Tuesday in Geneva, I met with Mrs. Mary Robinson and we discussed technical cooperation activities that her Office is eager to launch in East Timor to reinforce the East Timorese preventive capacity. One such activity is the creation of a national human rights commission, and I have encouraged her to send a mission to discuss with us and with the East Timorese leadership the contents and the timetable for the implementation of such a programme of technical cooperation.

Ambassador Chowdhury also mentioned the importance of the ASEAN countries and of the region as a whole in the reconstruction and development of East Timor. I think I have already addressed this in my reply to Ambassador Andjaba.

Ambassador Shen Guofang referred to the importance of safeguarding the unity of the CNRT. I certainly could not agree more. That is a priority for all of us. That is a very important message from this Council. We have attempted to achieve that goal through the participatory way in which the National Consultative Council has been operating and through the consensus-building efforts within the National Consultative Council and other consultative bodies at the central and district levels. Secondly, I have indicated why we decided, with Mr. Xanana Gusmão, to delay somewhat the discussion of issues such as the new constitution, a law on political parties or a law on elections — that is, all those questions that are likely to divide or to lead to a premature politicization of the environment and to political competition, which in turn are likely to weaken the unity and the commonality of purpose that we have managed to develop within the CNRT and the National Consultative Council.

Last but not least — and I agree with those members who mentioned these visits as important in consolidating unity within the CNRT, and ultimately unity among all East Timorese, including those who campaigned for autonomy and integration — I would refer to the visit of our Secretary-General on 17 and 18 February. This will include a very brief visit to refugee camps in Atambua, which is a very powerful message that he will be conveying to those refugees, and is to be preceded by the visit of President Sampaio of Portugal and to be followed by the visit of President Abdurrahman Wahid. These visits, and many more that are scheduled for the month of February and subsequent months, will be extremely important in boosting this unity of purpose of the East Timorese people, which we are determined to cultivate and further support.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.40 p.m.

United Nations

S/PV.4098

Security Council

Fifty-fifth Year

Provisional

4098th Meeting

Monday, 7 February 2000, 12.20 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Listre	(Argentina)
Members:	Bangladesh	Mr. Chowdhury
	Canada	Mr. Fowler
	China	Mr. Shen Guofang
	France	Mr. Dejammet
	Jamaica	Miss Durrant
	Malaysia	Mr. Hasmy
	Mali	Mr. Ouane
	Namibia	Mr. Andjaba
	Netherlands	Mr. van Walsum
	Russian Federation	Mr. Granovsky
	Tunisia	Mr. Ben Mustapha
	Ukraine	Mr. Yel'chenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Jeremy Greenstock
	United States of America	Ms. Soderberg

Agenda

The situation in Sierra Leone

Letter dated 23 December 1999 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1999/1285)

Second report of the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council resolution 1270 (1999) on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (S/2000/13 and Add.1)

00-28157 (E)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

The meeting was called to order at 12.20 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Sierra Leone

Letter dated 23 December 1999 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1999/1285)

Second report of the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council resolution 1270 (1999) on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (S/2000/13 and Add.1)

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, and in the absence of objection, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Hédi Annabi, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I invite Mr. Annabi to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Security Council have before them the letter dated 23 December 1999 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council, document S/1999/1285, and the second report of the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council resolution 1270 (1999) on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone, documents S/2000/13 and Add.1.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Hédi Annabi, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, regarding the situation in Sierra Leone.

I give the floor to the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

Mr. Annabi: Since we last briefed the Security Council on 12 January, the situation in Sierra Leone has remained relatively stable, although there have been a number of serious incidents, to which I will refer in this briefing.

As members of the Council are aware, in the letter of 23 December addressed to the President of the Security Council by the Secretary-General, as well as in his subsequent report to the Council of 11 January, the Secretary-General informed the Council that the Government of Nigeria had decided to repatriate its troops participating in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) in Sierra Leone.

On 13 January, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria wrote to the Secretary-General indicating that his Government was

> "prepared to suspend for 90 days the withdrawal of those forces deemed necessary to maintain security in Sierra Leone if they can be re-flagged as United Nations peacekeeping troops".

In anticipation of the adoption of the draft resolution that would expand the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), we have initiated negotiations with a high-level Nigerian delegation headed by the Chief of Staff of the Nigerian Armed Forces, Major-General Malu, which in fact started in Freetown today. The purpose of these talks is to discuss the modalities for the incorporation of additional Nigerian troops and equipment into UNAMSIL. As of today, there are reportedly 5,500 ECOMOG troops remaining in Sierra Leone, mostly concentrated in and around Freetown peninsula.

Turning now to UNAMSIL's deployment, Council members will remember that, in view of the withdrawal of Nigerian troops from several key locations in Sierra Leone at the end of December last year, UNAMSIL had to accelerate its own deployment, despite the substantial risks in doing so, to Makeni, Magburaka, Kenema and Daru. At present, United Nations troops are also deployed in the Freetown peninsula, at Lungi airport and its vicinity, Papel and Tasso Islands, Port Loko, Lunsar, Masiaka, Rogberi and Mano Junction. A quick-reaction company from India, as well as a guard and administrative company and an engineer company, are also deployed in and around Freetown. In addition, a reconnaissance is underway in the area of Kailahun in preparation for the deployment of the Indian battalion to that area.

The total strength of the military component of UNAMSIL currently stands at 4,830 personnel, including 232 military observers. It should be noted, however, that some battalions that have joined UNAMSIL lack essential equipment, which of course affects their operational capabilities. It should also be noted that during the course of last month there were several incidents in which UNAMSIL peacekeepers were confronted by rebel elements, but did not respond, in our view, in a satisfactory manner. This is of course a matter of particular concern to us here at Headquarters, but also to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Adeniji, and to the Force Commander, Major-General Jetley. The matter was extensively addressed and discussed at the troop contributors' meeting, which was held on Friday of last week, and on Friday the Military Adviser also held a separate meeting to discuss these issues with the representatives of the major troop contributors. At the same time, the Special Representative and the Force Commander have been consulting on the ground with all the contingent commanders to impress on them the need to apply UNAMSIL's rules of engagement resolutely, and the need to apply them strictly, in accordance with the mandates entrusted to UNAMSIL by the Security Council. Simultaneously, the Special Representative is working with Foday Sankoh and Johnny Paul Koroma in order to put an end to the recent attempts by rebel elements to restrict UNAMSIL's freedom of movement, and in order to secure the return of the weapons and equipment that have been seized from United Nations troops by these rebel elements.

The security situation in the country, I have to say, remains difficult, with a continued high level of ambushes, lawlessness and banditry in a number of areas. Continued attempts to restrict the freedom of movement of United Nations personnel in rebel-held areas are also, as I just mentioned, a source of major concern. While Freetown and Lungi remained relatively calm, there was in recent weeks a discernible increase in rebel-related activity, in particular along the Port Loko-Lungi road. In Port Loko itself, following a grenade explosion in a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) camp, the security situation has remained tense. Ceasefire violations have also been reported in the areas of Occra Hills, Pepel Island and Masiaka. In addition, UNAMSIL has reported tension at Daru and Segbwema as a result of movements by armed Revolutionary United Front (RUF) elements.

On the other hand, since we last briefed the Council, more than 60 child soldiers have been released by ex-Sierra Leone Army (SLA) rebel commanders at Occra Hills.

As regards the disarmament process, it has continued to be slow, except for in the Port Loko area, where a large number of additional combatants were disarmed recently. As of 3 February — the end of last week — 7,616 ex-combatants had been disarmed. There continue to be incidents in which ex-combatants arrive at DDR sites with no weapons or with only hand grenades. It should be noted that at a recent Joint Monitoring Commission meeting, held in Freetown, rebel representatives claimed that the RUF leadership had not allowed their commanders to surrender their weapons. Such ambivalence on the part of the rebel leaders of course raises questions regarding their readiness to cooperate in good faith with the DDR process and to implement their commitments under the Lomé Agreement.

In the meantime, there have been indications that President Kabbah, Foday Sankoh and Johnny Paul Koroma may issue a press release proposing 29 February as the deadline for the end of the disarmament process. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General believes — and we agree of course — that any deadline for disarmament should be realistic. He is currently discussing this issue with the President and the other parties concerned.

Regarding the human rights situation, on 20 and 21 January two United Nations human rights assessment missions were conducted in Port Loko and Kabala. In Port Loko, most human rights abuses appear to be perpetrated by ex-SLA elements from the Occra Hills area. There are almost daily reports from this area of looting, burning of houses, harassment and abductions of civilians, as well as of sexual abuse and individual abductions.

In the meantime, in Kabala, incidents of harassment, abduction and rape somewhat subsided last month. However, the civilian population continues to be harassed by ex-SLA combatants roaming the area in search of food and shelter. In RUF-dominated areas around Alikalia, the continued imposition of so-called taxation is having an effect on local food availability.

There has been some progress with regard to the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The Attorney-General and the Minister of Justice of Sierra Leone on 2 February informed the Special Representative of the Secretary-General that the draft statute to establish the Truth and Reconciliation Commission had been finalized. It is expected that the

draft statute will be circulated to the Cabinet shortly, with a view to its adoption by Parliament, hopefully later this month. At the same time, UNAMSIL and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights continue to assist the Government in its preparations for the establishment of the Human Rights Commission.

As regards the humanitarian situation, plans for the rapid expansion of humanitarian operations inside the country, starting with Makeni, continue to be delayed by insecurity. A comprehensive inter-agency humanitarian assessment mission to those areas was postponed until this week due to rebel activity. In Kabala, humanitarian workers also continue to be harassed by disarmed combatants. As a result, despite the efforts of United Nations agencies, humanitarian activities in the northern and eastern parts of the country remain limited.

The World Bank, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Development Programme have just completed a high-level mission to Sierra Leone to explore operational responses aimed at strengthening the linkage between humanitarian assistance and early reconstruction and development. Preliminary consultations to this effect with members of the humanitarian community are scheduled to take place shortly in Geneva.

Finally, a word about recent political developments. On 24 January, the second meeting of the Joint Implementation Committee was held in Freetown. This meeting confirmed the commitment of ECOWAS to remain fully involved in the peace process. The current Chairman of ECOWAS, President Konaré of Mali, has announced his intention to undertake — together with President Kabbah, Foday Sankoh and Johnny Paul Koroma — visits to the provinces of Sierra Leone, in order to try to give a fresh impetus to the DDR process. President Konaré also appointed a Special Envoy for Sierra Leone to ensure effective coordination between ECOWAS and other partners in the peace process.

The implementation of the Lomé Agreement, however, remains difficult. On 20 January, while addressing RUF commanders in Makeni, Foday Sankoh instructed them not to allow the deployment of United Nations peacekeepers. The Special Representative, Mr. Adeniji, reacted to this with a strongly worded public statement, which in turn led Foday Sankoh to state that his comments had been misunderstood.

On 23 January, Foday Sankoh, in his capacity as Chairman of the Commission of the Management of Strategic Resources, National Reconstruction and Development (CMRRD), announced a moratorium on all mining activities, as well as the cancellation of existing mining licenses issued before 24 January. This announcement was publicly supported by the Government. Some parliamentarians, however, have voiced their uneasiness with this decision. In this connection, it should be noted that neither the CMRRD nor the Commission for the Consolidation of Peace are yet operational, and the Government is currently consulting with Mr. Sankoh and Mr. Koroma on how to expedite the work of these institutions. In the meantime, Mr. Koroma officially resigned from the Sierra Leone Army on 28 January, apparently to be able to pursue his goals through political means, while Mr. Sankoh publicly alluded to the possibility of running for the presidency in the elections to be conducted next year.

In conclusion, we feel that it would be important for regional leaders and Security Council members, whether individually or collectively, to continue to engage all parties in this process to impress upon them the need to fulfil their commitments under the Lomé Agreement and to cooperate fully with UNAMSIL in the implementation of its mandate. In this connection, President Konare's proactive approach towards the peace settlement in Sierra Leone is a very encouraging development. The proposed joint visit of President Konare, President Kabbah, Mr. Sankoh and Mr. Koroma to the provinces also highlights the urgent need to extend State administration throughout the country.

It is hoped that the establishment of a credible UNAMSIL presence in strategic locations throughout Sierra Leone, including in and around Kailahun, will facilitate that process. We and the Special Representative are actively working towards that end. At the same time, it would also be important to pursue and strengthen the ongoing bilateral and multilateral efforts regarding the training of the Sierra Leonean military and civilian police in order to advance the implementation of the Lomé Agreement.

The President *(spoke in Spanish)*: I thank Mr. Annabi for his comprehensive briefing.

Sir Jeremy Greenstock (United Kingdom): We are very grateful to Mr. Annabi for his briefing and for all the hard work that the Department of Peacekeeping

Operations is doing to get the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) in on the ground.

At this point, I only want to ask a couple of questions about UNAMSIL's ability to deploy. First, as regards the logistical effort that needs to be upgraded, I wanted to ask whether there were still shortfalls or whether the gap has been filled with civilian contractors. And is it logistics that is affecting the ability to deploy UNAMSIL outside Freetown at an early date, or are we going deeper into the business of the capacity of UNAMSIL's contingents at this moment to go beyond a very restricted area of operations? Thirdly, could Mr. Annabi let us know which countries so far have agreed to contribute troops to the enlarged UNAMSIL and whether he can give us a clearer idea of the time frames that he is envisaging for full deployment?

I will stop here. I will make other comments when we come to our second meeting.

Mr. van Walsum (Netherlands): We are grateful to Assistant Secretary-General Annabi for his realistic and hardly reassuring briefing.

The draft resolution we are about to adopt is a very sobering one. It plainly lists the major shortcomings in the implementation of the Lomé Peace Agreement before focusing on the immediate problem of the withdrawal of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Monitoring Group (ECOMOG). This is the correct order.

The Security Council is called upon to enable the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) to take over essential tasks under Chapter VII of the Charter that were previously carried out courageously and in the spirit of sacrifice by ECOMOG troops from Nigeria, Guinea and Ghana. By filling this gap, the Council will enable the United Nations to continue to assist the parties in implementing what they agreed upon in Lomé on 7 July 1999, but the draft resolution rightly underlines that the responsibility for the success of the peace process ultimately lies with the parties themselves.

In the draft resolution, the Council reiterates its call upon the parties to fulfil all their commitments under the Lomé Peace Agreement, but some important elements of the peace process have encountered dangerous delays. The momentum and promise of Lomé must be upheld. In particular, the following is now required. The parties, especially the Revolutionary United Front Party (RUFP), must make every effort to speed up the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) process and to encourage more ex-combatants to lay down their arms. The recent meeting of the Joint Monitoring Committee characterized the success of the DDR as minimal. Parties, especially the RUFP, must refrain from hostile acts against the United Nations and humanitarian workers. They must also put an end to defamatory public statements directed against the United Nations and UNAMSIL that endanger the peace process.

Those who continue to terrorize the civilian population of Sierra Leone must realize that the amnesty of the Peace Agreement does not extend to atrocities committed after the signing of the Lomé Agreement. The mechanism called for in that Agreement must be set up and made fully operational. This applies in particular to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, but also to the Commission of the Management of Strategic Resources, National Reconstruction and Development (CMRRD).

The reorganization of the diamond mining sector recently announced by the Chairman of CMRRD must be in full compliance with article VII, paragraph 6, of the Lomé Agreement. The Commission must ensure that the proceeds are used for the development of Sierra Leone, particularly public education, public health, infrastructure development and compensation for incapacitated war victims, as well as post-war reconstruction and development.

With regard to this last point, my delegation would like to make the following observation: the impressive activities of Ambassador Fowler as Chairman of the Angola sanctions Committee have opened our eyes to the alarming extent to which natural resources can fuel a conflict. One is almost inclined to conclude that some African countries are blessed with the absence of mineral resources. That, of course, is not a very practical and operational conclusion, but it points at the existence of a real problem. My delegation would welcome an exchange of views on this subject in general. It is clearly also relevant in the West African context.

Given the request for international involvement contained in the Lomé Peace Agreement, we feel that the Council has the responsibility to see to it that, on this matter too, the letter and the spirit of the accord are respected so that Sierra Leone's rich resources can at last fuel peace and prosperity instead of civil war.

Mr. Ouane (Mali) (*spoke in French*): I thank Ambassador Greenstock and his delegation, as well as the experts who were involved, for their hard and excellent work, which made possible the formulation of a very realistic draft resolution on the situation in Sierra Leone. My thanks go also to Mr. Hedi Annabi, who has, as usual, given us a very comprehensive and clear briefing following the submission of the report of the Secretary-General.

I wish to reiterate the very strong commitment of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and in particular of its current Chairman, President Alpha Oumar Konaré, to speedily bringing peace to Sierra Leone. I wish also to stress the importance of the support of the Security Council and of the international community, which in our view is essential if we are successfully to implement the Lomé Peace Agreement.

I shall not address Mr. Annabi's comments at this stage, but will just ardently express our hope that the draft resolution on which the Council will take action later will be speedily implemented. My delegation supports that draft resolution.

Mr. Chowdhury (Bangladesh): We recognize that events in Sierra Leone have been moving in the right direction since the Lomé Peace Agreement. However, since the situation in Sierra Leone is still precarious, the continued involvement of the United Nations in bringing peace to that country is of critical significance. With the impending departure of troops of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Monitoring Group (ECOMOG), it is absolutely necessary that the United Nations assume a greater responsibility there. Bangladesh supported the expansion of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), to prevent any security gap in Sierra Leone that might derail the peace process, and we welcome the recommendations of the Secretary-General in that regard.

In that connection, we welcome the briefing we just received from the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Hedi Annabi. We would like him to brief us, perhaps later, about the conditions on the ground in the area where additional UNAMSIL personnel will be subsequently deployed. We are also interested to know about the situation regarding the civilian police who will need to train the Sierra Leone police force, which is at the moment almost non-existent. We would like to find out whether the number of civilian police, that is 60 at the moment, will be adequate to undertake that training responsibility. We would also like to know about the 29 February deadline for disarmament; we might take this opportunity to request the Secretary-General to keep us apprised of developments in that regard.

We are happy that the draft resolution that we will consider later today reaffirms the strong commitment of the Council to continue to support the efforts for peace and reconstruction in Sierra Leone. It will provide UNAMSIL with an adequate mandate and sufficient strength on the ground to facilitate the full implementation of the Lomé Peace Agreement.

Here, we would like to support the comment made by Ambassador van Walsum regarding the resource situation and its links to the implementation of the sanctions and other elements of the Lomé Agreement. We would strongly join him in supporting future discussions in that regard.

The full implementation of the Agreement, however, ultimately rests with the leaders and the people of Sierra Leone. It is they who have to strive hard for the regeneration of a culture of peace in Sierra Leone. Only then will there be lasting peace and true reconciliation. We are convinced that the draft resolution upholds that final objective and will contribute to achieving it.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I call on Mr. Annabi to respond to the comments and questions that have been addressed to him.

Mr. Annabi: As regards the capacity of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) to deploy and to operate: as I mentioned in my briefing, troops made available to the United Nations under the new contingent-owned equipment regulations are expected to come fully equipped according to the agreed standards, and to be self-sustaining for a period of at least 60 days. Now, some contributors sometimes have difficulties in meeting these requirements, and I have alluded to them. These shortfalls in equipment affect the operational capabilities of the troops. We have had to deploy some of the troops before they were fully ready, at a time last December when we did not expect to have to deploy them, because of the withdrawal of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) from certain locations. We are in the process of working with the contributors to see how best we can make up, or encourage them to make up, for these equipment shortfalls. We are also looking at the possibility of civilian contracts for those shortfalls that cannot otherwise be met.

I will not pretend that we have all the logistic equipment that we need; there is always a certain delay in all of our operations. But the main difficulties we are encountering at this time regarding operational capability come from shortfalls in the equipment of certain contingents: equipment which was supposed to be available to them and which is not.

As regards the expansion of UNAMSIL, we have, of course, been negotiating actively with a number of countries which have expressed interest in participating and which have made offers to participate in the expanded UNAMSIL. We already have two Nigerian battalions in UNAMISIL, and we expect another two Nigerian battalions as well as a motorized company; in addition to those, we have offers by four other countries, which I understand are waiting for the adoption of the draft resolution before they are in a position to confirm their offers formally.

On the requirements for civilian police, the proposal contained in the Secretary-General's report for 60 civilian police — as opposed to the six that were there previously, a significant increase — was worked out in consultation with the local police authorities as well as with some of the other international partners engaged in providing assistance to the local police on a bilateral basis. It was felt that these numbers should be enough to meet the tasks foreseen for them, which are limited to advice and assistance to the Government on the restructuring and training of the local police forces. In other words, they are not going to assume direct law and order functions, but only provide advice on the training and restructuring. We would also establish a presence at the DDR sites and at some key population centres, again for the purpose of providing advice on the maintenance of law and order rather than for the purpose of assuming direct policing functions.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank Mr. Hédi Annabi for his clarifications and responses.

There are no further speakers on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Security Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.4099

Security Council

Fifty-fifth Year

Provisional

4099th Meeting

Monday, 7 February 2000, 1 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Listre	(Argentina)
Members:	Bangladesh	Mr. Chowdhury
	Canada	Mr. Fowler
	China	Mr. Shen Guofang
	France	Mr. Teixeira da Silva
	Jamaica	Miss Durrant
	Malaysia	Mr. Hasmy
	Mali	Mr. Ouane
	Namibia	Mr. Theron
	Netherlands	Mr. van Walsum
	Russian Federation	Mr. Lavrov
	Tunisia	Mr. Ben Mustapha
	Ukraine	Mr. Yel'chenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Jeremy Greenstock
	United States of America	Ms. Soderberg

Agenda

The situation in Sierra Leone

Letter dated 23 December 1999 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1999/1285)

Second report of the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council resolution 1270 (1999) on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (S/2000/13 and Add.1)

00-28170 (E)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

The meeting was called to order at 1 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Sierra Leone

Letter dated 23 December 1999 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1999/1285)

Second report of the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council resolution 1270 (1999) on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (S/2000/13 and Add.1)

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Sierra Leone, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Kamara (Sierra Leone) took a seat at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): The Security Council will now continue its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Security Council have before them the same documents considered at the 4098th meeting. Members of the Council also have before them document S/2000/34, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

I should also like to draw the attention of the members of the Council to document S/2000/31, containing the text of a letter dated 17 January 2000 addressed to the President of the Security Council from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Sierra Leone, endorsing the recommendations of the Secretary-General contained in his second report.

I give the floor to the representative of Sierra Leone.

Mr. Kamara (Sierra Leone): First of all, I would like to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council. My delegation has no doubt that with your diplomatic experience, you will successfully direct the affairs of this important organ during your tenure of office. At the same time, permit me to pay tribute to your predecessor, the representative of the United States, who, in the course of his presidency, declared January the "month of Africa" in the Security Council and worked tirelessly not only to make his declaration meaningful, but also to ensure that the Council did not ignore other areas of conflict on its agenda.

It is our hope that the momentum which was generated during the month of January will be maintained as far as possible in the coming months. Now that the Council has apparently refuted the notion that African issues were being given far less attention than those of other parts of the world, we hope that the Council will take appropriate and concrete action to help resolve the various conflicts which it considered during the month of January before they escalate further.

Perhaps as an extension of its work in January, the Security Council may wish to consider holding occasional joint sessions with the Economic and Social Council, another principal organ of the United Nations, whose functions also touch on the very survival of peoples throughout the world. Joint sessions on silent but potentially deadly conflict-related phenomena such as refugees, HIV/AIDS, malaria and malnutrition, which plague Africa today, would highlight the interrelationship between the roles of the two Councils as far as peace and human security are concerned.

The situation in Sierra Leone was not discussed formally in open meetings of the Security Council in January. However, intensive consultations were conducted behind the scenes on the draft resolution now before the Council. In our view, the decision to authorize an expansion of the peacekeeping operations in Sierra Leone — the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) — is so far the most significant outcome of the "month of Africa" in the Security Council. Highlighting African issues in open and formal meetings of the Council is useful. Of course, African States would welcome the adoption of action-oriented resolutions on those issues. For our part, we are grateful

to the Council as a whole and to those Member States which helped lay the foundations for today's action on the situation in Sierra Leone.

We should also like to commend the Secretary-General for translating his knowledge of the peculiar circumstances in Sierra Leone and the subregion into bold and appropriate recommendations to the Security Council on our behalf, especially since the signing of the Lomé Peace Agreement last July. My delegation also welcomes the stance which the Secretary-General's Special Representative in Sierra Leone took recently in response to unwarranted remarks about the Secretary-General and the role of the United Nations in the peace process.

The Government of Sierra Leone was seriously concerned about the possibility of a security vacuum in the country at the time of the imminent withdrawal of the remaining Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) troops from Sierra Leone. This, coupled with the relatively slow pace of the disarmament and demobilization process, was why we kept appealing to the international community to assist ECOMOG in ensuring the security of the State — a function which, under the terms of the Lomé Agreement, was linked to the phased creation and deployment of the restructured Sierra Leone armed forces. In this regard, let me emphasize here that Sierra Leone did not expect ECOMOG to remain in the country indefinitely.

The new timetable for the withdrawal of the remaining Nigerian contingent of ECOMOG, as well as the Security Council's decision to expand the military component of UNAMSIL to a maximum of 11,100 personnel, should allay some of our fears about the security of the State. The same applies to the Council's decision to give UNAMSIL, if not all, at least many, of the functions being performed by ECOMOG. In this regard, the Sierra Leone Government welcomes wholeheartedly the fact that the revised mandate and additional responsibilities of UNAMSIL are fully backed by Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

No one who has seen evidence of, or has read about, the conflict in Sierra Leone should be surprised by our elation over the fact that the Security Council is again authorizing UNAMSIL to afford protection to civilians under imminent threat of physical violence. We consider this one of the most significant provisions of the new resolution.

In closing, I would like to assure the Council that notwithstanding some problems of unfortunate events, such as those of January 1999, the overwhelming majority of Sierra Leoneans who want genuine peace continue to have faith in the ability and commitment of ECOMOG to protect the nation. They trusted and still trust ECOMOG. I know they are already developing the same degree of confidence in UNAMSIL's ability to facilitate the disarmament and demobilization process.

The adoption of this draft resolution will cast another ray of hope across Sierra Leone. It will serve as an additional assurance that this Council cares about their safety and security. It is also another confidence-building measure. The timely implementation of its relevant provisions should also contribute immensely to the consolidation of peace in the country.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the representative of Sierra Leone for the kind words he has addressed to me.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. If I hear no objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I shall first call on those members of the Council who wish to make statements before the vote.

Sir Jeremy Greenstock (United Kingdom): Sierra Leone has come a long way since the bleak prospects of a year ago, and the thanks for that are due first and foremost, I think, to the forces of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) who defended Freetown and prevented its fall to the rebels. So it is important that we begin today by giving credit to the ECOMOG forces. But the draft resolution we are about to pass marks a key transition from the ECOMOG stage. It marks the international community's readiness through the United Nations to take over ECOMOG's role and together with that the full responsibility for the provision of security in Freetown and at the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) camp, as well as for many other aspects of the Lomé peace process.

Sierra Leone may be a small country, but this is an enormous challenge for the United Nations. It is in effect no less of a test of the United Nations commitment

to conflict resolution in Africa than what we are contemplating for the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It is a test not just of our willingness to intervene — the deployment of the first phase of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) has shown that — but of the United Nations actual ability to deliver effective peacekeeping of lasting impact and value.

As the six new UNAMSIL battalions deploy and move out into the north and east of the country, we will be asking them to ensure the disarmament of hard-core rebels in their own heartlands, and we will all need to stay in close touch with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), as the United Kingdom will, about UNAMSIL's capacity logistically and militarily to do this.

UNAMSIL is not a Chapter VII peace enforcement operation, but we all recognized in formulating the mandate for the force, as set out in the draft resolution before us, that this task will require a robust and serious stance against possible threats. UNAMSIL must act with the determination and the flexibility to see this through. The UNAMSIL Commander will need the full support of the Secretariat here in New York, and all UNAMSIL troop contributors must ensure that their troops are of a high standard, ready and able to meet the challenges that they face. In this respect we were very concerned at the DPKO report of the recent incident affecting certain UNAMSIL contingents.

I want to turn attention now also to the role of the wider international community. Without our continued determination and support, even an expanded UNAMSIL force cannot keep Sierra Leone on its current positive path. Sierra Leone will need sustained outside assistance for some time. The United Kingdom is committed to continue to be a significant player. Since March 1998 we have contributed nearly $65 million to Sierra Leone. We will press ahead with the substantial programmes of assistance which we have already established, in particular in the security sector, rebuilding and retraining the Sierra Leone armed forces.

But we and other current donors cannot shoulder the burden either indefinitely or alone. Wider and more substantive international support is needed. The first urgent requirement is funding for the DDR programme. The vast effort and expenditure involved in mounting this 11,000-strong United Nations force will be wasted if the DDR programme which they there to help implement is not fully funded. A further $23 million is needed now.

The international community also has a task in ensuring that the parties, and Mr. Foday Sankoh in particular, fulfil their commitments. We must press for this relentlessly. The leaders of the West African region have a particular responsibility and influence. If properly implemented, the Lomé Agreement will enable the Government of Sierra Leone to establish control over the whole of the country and its own resources for the first time in eight years. This is important not just for Sierra Leone and its people, but for the stability and prosperity of the whole subregion.

In substantively expanding UNAMSIL and widening its mandate, the Security Council today is acting again to help give the people of Sierra Leone the means to achieve the peace they so desperately need. We must assure that over the next crucial months we will give the United Nations force and the Government of Sierra Leone all the support and assistance they need in this to sustain the progress made in 1999.

Ms. Soderberg (United States): Last October the Security Council adopted resolution 1270 (1999) to establish the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL). That resolution authorizes 6,000 military personnel to assist the Government of Sierra Leone in the implementation of the Lomé Peace Agreement, including the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of ex-combatants. It was envisioned that United Nations troops and ECOMOG forces would each play a critical role in restoring peace and stability in Sierra Leone.

In December, the members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) announced that they no longer would be able to sustain its Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) forces in Sierra Leone. We regret that decision but acknowledge the tremendous sacrifices and contributions of the troops of Ghana, Guinea, Mali, and especially Nigeria, made in support of peace and democracy in Sierra Leone. With ECOMOG's decision to withdraw its forces, it is imperative to avoid a security gap. The peace process in Sierra Leone remains fragile and it is in all of our interest to help ensure its success.

Therefore, the United States supports the Secretary-General's recommendation to expand the mandate of UNAMSIL to take on the functions of the departing ECOMOG forces, and the United States will vote for the draft resolution before us today. To ensure there is no gap in security, we support the "rehatting" of two battalions of Nigerian ECOMOG troops remaining in

Sierra Leone. We welcome the Nigerian Government's agreement with that proposal and urge the United Nations and the Nigerian Government to work closely together to ensure an efficient and effective transition with adequate logistical support.

The former rebels still hold sway in much of the countryside and there are deeply disturbing reports that they have been intimidating UNAMSIL soldiers and seizing their weapons, placing the United Nations troops in the bizarre situation of being disarmed by the rebels, rather than the reverse. We are deeply alarmed by these reports and strongly condemn all such actions. We call on the leader of the Revolutionary United Front Party (RUFP), Foday Sankoh, and the leaders of the ex-Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) rebels to bring an immediate halt to these dangerous and reprehensible actions. They must permit the United Nations forces to carry out their mandate in Sierra Leone without confrontation or violence.

We also call upon United Nations officials to address this problem quickly and effectively. The mandates of Security Council resolution 1270 (1999) and of the draft resolution on which we will vote today grant United Nations troops Chapter VII authority in the discharge of their mandate to take the necessary action to ensure the security and freedom of their personnel.

While much progress has been made, the peace process in Sierra Leone is now at an especially sensitive stage. The ceasefire is generally holding; over 13,000 combatants have entered demobilization sites; and some 7,000 have disarmed. But the situation remains volatile. The disarmament, demobilization and reintegration into society of the estimated 45,000 ex-combatants are progressing slowly; the process has taken much longer than all of us had hoped. Logistical problems, fear and mistrust are among the many obstacles.

Helping the Government and people of Sierra Leone consolidate peace after eight years of civil war is a high priority for the United States. Our principal interests are in helping to ensure a durable peace, building a climate of respect for human rights and the democratic process, holding those responsible for atrocities accountable under agreed mechanisms, and providing humanitarian relief to the population. A peaceful Sierra Leone is important also in contributing to stability in West Africa.

We urge the utmost efforts by all concerned to carry disarmament, demobilization and reintegration through to a successful conclusion while conditions on the ground are still conducive to success. The United Nations must move quickly to ensure the success of the DDR programme that will pave the way for the consolidation of the peace process. DDR is a crucial element in encouraging refugees and the internally displaced to return to their homes.

We are especially concerned by the plight of the internally displaced, who outnumber the 500,000 Sierra Leone refugees and suffer many of the same vulnerabilities, but are often out of reach of effective humanitarian access. Roughly one third of the population of Sierra Leone is internally displaced. We call on all parties to adhere to their commitments in the Lomé Agreement to provide unfettered and safe access to all parts of the country for humanitarian workers. We must not allow these innocent victims of war to be neglected, and insist that all parties adhere to United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

We want the Lomé Agreement to succeed. The provisions for amnesty in the Agreement represent a difficult choice, taken by the signatories in order to end the fighting. We remain committed to justice and accountability for serious violations of international humanitarian law. We are working to help the Government of Sierra Leone establish a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, as well as the Human Rights Commission that is called for by the Agreement. We also favour an international fact-finding mission to support the work and proceedings of the Truth and Reconciliation and Human Rights Commissions.

It is our hope that these Commissions can help bring healing and reconciliation to the people of Sierra Leone. Many have suffered for too long. With the assistance of the international community, we can help bring peace and reconciliation to Sierra Leone.

Mr. Fowler (Canada) (*spoke in French*): Canada will vote in favour of the draft resolution before us on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL). The draft resolution gives expression to the international community's commitment to peace in Sierra Leone. We are deeply grateful for the sacrifices made by the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG), which has been working towards stability and security in Sierra Leone for the past three years. The decision to prolong ECOMOG's stay in order to ensure a smooth transition to a more robust United Nations presence is much appreciated. We also

commend the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Adeniji, for his tireless work in support of the restoration of a durable peace in Sierra Leone.

(*spoke in English*)

In adopting this draft resolution today, the Security Council is reaffirming its commitment to supporting the Lomé Peace Agreement and to bringing peace to Sierra Leone. The next phase of UNAMSIL will take on some of the heavy responsibilities that have to this point been ECOMOG's, notably support for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programme, maintenance of law and order in the main centres and protection of key facilities. In discharging these critical tasks, the Mission will have the benefit of a strong mandate that provides for the protection of civilians, within, of course — as the draft resolution notes — its capabilities and areas of deployment. Canada believes that this is a sign that we are learning from past mistakes and that current and future peacekeeping missions in Africa will be able to count on the full support of the international community.

For Sierra Leone, this commitment is both timely and necessary. More than 30,000 former combatants are yet to be disarmed. Some 4,000 children abducted during the war are still missing. Large areas of the country remain inaccessible to aid agencies; the humanitarian and human-rights situation in those areas can only be imagined. Banditry is a constant menace. The next phase of UNAMSIL ought to provide much-needed stability and security, ensuring improved humanitarian access and vital support to the DDR process. Canada will help to sustain these objectives by contributing $9 million towards peace-building projects, including DDR, and the reintegration of war-affected children. We are also pleased to contribute military observers to UNAMSIL.

Canada welcomes the profound concern for human security manifest in this draft resolution. The inclusion of provisions for landmine action and for the conscientious management of Sierra Leone's natural resources represents an innovation in the crafting of peacekeeping mandates. It also shows great awareness of the fact that human security remains a constant challenge, even after the guns fall silent.

It is our hope that this commitment will be acknowledged and replicated by the parties to the conflict. We are heartened by the recent joint effort by the Government of Sierra Leone, the Revolutionary United Front Party (RUFP) and ECOMOG to raise awareness of and confidence in the disarmament programme. We continue to view the situation in Sierra Leone with eyes wide open, however, and trust that RUFP leader Foday Sankoh's recent negative comments regarding the United Nations do not foretell a drift from the path towards peace. We are glad to hear from Mr. Annabi that, indeed, Mr. Sankoh believes that he was misunderstood in this regard.

The task ahead is, indeed, daunting. The United Nations, with this draft resolution, is poised to make a significant contribution to the effort. We encourage all the leaders of Sierra Leone to work with us and bring the suffering of their people to an end.

With regard to Ambassador Van Walsum's suggestion and generous remarks about our efforts with regard to the examination of how the illegal trade in diamonds impacts on civil war in Africa, I will be presenting the report of the expert panel to the Council in mid-March. I expect that, at that time, we will be hearing a fair amount about the vicious nexus between the illegal marketing of diamonds and the purchase of war matériel and, more generally, about the truly corrosive nature of the impact of these high-value materials on such volatile situations as those which pertain in Sierra Leone and Angola and on the individuals and Governments involved. I therefore wholeheartedly agree with Ambassadors Van Walsum and Chowdhury that further study, perhaps following the presentation of the report of the expert panel next month, on these issues within the Council is indeed timely and warranted.

Mr. Yel'chenko (Ukraine): Long before it became a member of the Security Council, Ukraine was following closely the developments in Sierra Leone. The important draft resolution to be adopted at this meeting gives us our first opportunity to outline the major elements on the basis of which Ukraine will address the situation in Sierra Leone as a member of this body.

We highly appreciated the courage and responsibility shown by Sierra Leoneans which resulted in the taking of momentous decisions aimed at bringing an end to the long-lasting civil war in their country. The Lomé Peace Agreement, signed on 7 July 1999 by the parties to the conflict and by the regional and international mediators, provided an opportunity for the people of Sierra Leone to return to the path of reconciliation. At the same time, Ukraine does not want to conceal its judgement that this instrument is far from perfect. The blanket amnesty

provisions contained in the document are the major cause of our reservations. In this respect we fully associate ourselves with the stance taken by the United Nations that the amnesty and pardon outlined in article IX of the Lomé Agreement shall not apply to international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other serious violations of international humanitarian law.

Ukraine would like to acknowledge the major contribution of the African countries — first and foremost, of the members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), under the leadership of Nigeria — to the initiation of the peace process in Sierra Leone. Our country attaches particular importance to the success of this process since we are convinced that it could help inspire the restoration of peace in other parts of the continent. It is the major reason why Ukraine is strongly determined to encourage the international community to provide substantive support to the implementation of the Lomé Agreement. We cannot but emphasize that the primary role in this endeavour is to be played by the Security Council.

The Security Council has already heard in this Chamber words of cautious optimism regarding the progress achieved so far in the implementation of the Lomé Agreement. As a new member of the Council, we will do our best to hasten the moment when the peace process will instead be characterized by the words "steady advancement". However, the current situation on the ground is a cause of great concern, as was confirmed by the briefing of Mr. Annabi.

Ceasefire violations, the frequent harassment of and attacks on civilians, banditry and weapons smuggling — all of these seriously undermine the peace process. The fact that the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme is proceeding at a snail's pace constitutes yet another source of serious concern.

The decision of the ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) to withdraw its troops from the territory of Sierra Leone has certainly been the major incentive for the draft resolution before the Council today. We understand the reasons that led the contributing member States of ECOMOG to take that decision. Under these circumstances, the United Nations should take increased responsibility for ensuring that the security vacuum is filled and to prevent the recurrence of fighting.

Against this backdrop, the decision on the expansion of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) will be a truly fundamental action by the Security Council. For its part, Ukraine is willing to make a practical contribution to this effort. I am pleased to inform the members of the Council that the Government of Ukraine has indicated its intention to provide an Mi-24 helicopter unit to the expanded UNAMSIL.

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate my country's support for the draft resolution before us.

Mr. Shen Guofang (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): During the recent period the situation in Sierra Leone has remained relatively stable, and the Lomé Peace Agreement is on the whole being implemented. However, as Mr. Annabi pointed out, there are still numerous destabilizing factors within the country, and the situation remains fragile. We are particularly concerned about recent words and deeds of the Revolutionary United Front and of Mr. Sankoh, and about the possible effects of these words and deeds on the peace process. We are deeply disquieted by the fact that the humanitarian situation remains grim and by the frequency of human rights violations. We hope that the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants will be undertaken in a timely and effective manner.

The Chinese delegation pays tribute to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) for their outstanding work in maintaining stability and promoting the peace process in Sierra Leone over such a long period of time. We also note the observation of the Secretary-General, contained in his letter of 23 December 1999, that due to changed circumstances, ECOMOG will no longer be able to continue its vital mission in Sierra Leone; in particular it will no longer be able to provide security in Freetown and at the international airport at Lungi or to protect the Government of Sierra Leone.

China has always advocated timely and practical action by the Council in support of the peace process in Sierra Leone. In view of the present situation and the request of the Government of Sierra Leone, we fully endorse the recommendation contained in the Secretary-General's report: to expand the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and broaden its mandate.

After several rounds of consultations, the draft resolution to be voted upon now basically reflects the

views of all sides in a comprehensive and balanced manner. Therefore, we support this draft resolution.

We are also gratified to note that the first phase of the deployment of UNAMSIL is being speeded up, and we appreciate the efforts of the Secretariat in this regard. At the same time, it is our hope that after the adoption today of the draft resolution by the Security Council, the Secretariat will move quickly to implement it, so that reinforcements will soon be in place to expeditiously carry out the transfer from ECOMOG and so that UNAMSIL can take up its duties pursuant to the provisions of the resolution as soon as possible.

The President *(spoke in Spanish)*: Before proceeding to the vote on the draft resolution, I must point out, especially to the delegation of Sierra Leone, that I had intended to speak in my national capacity, but in view of the lateness of the hour, I will convey those words to the Council in writing.

I now put to the vote the draft resolution contained in document S/2000/34.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, Bangladesh, Canada, China, France, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mali, Namibia, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President *(spoke in Spanish)*: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1289 (2000).

There are no further speakers on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Security Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 1.40 p.m.